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## Fire destroys Highland Grove home, displaces family

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Bobbiejoie Normandeau-Hennessey arrived at her Highland Grove home knowing it was on fire, but not knowing if her newlywed husband was in it.

On Dec. 9, Bobbiejoie had been shopping for Christmas gifts in Peterborough for Ryan Hennessey, who she married in September, when she received a phone message from her neighbour asking if her house was on fire. Ryan had stayed home to drywall the house their family was renovating while Bobbiejoie and daughter Justice Normandeau had gone shopping, when the fire began.

"A few hours had passed and I received a text message from a neighbour asking me if my house was on fire," Bobbiejoie told the *Echo*. "I then immediately started freaking out because my husband and animals were at home. I then called my neighbour and was informed to get home as fast as I could because my house was on fire."

She said she raced home, arriving to

see HISTORY page 2



### Bikes on ice

Last weekend brought the first day of organized ice racing on Grass Lake, near the Haliburton hospital. The Stiles family said they want to bring awareness to the winter sport and are encouraging all racers to come out and try their track with their bikes. More on page 5. /Photos by Tim Tofflemire

## Break-ins at Kosy Korner, Parkside Laundromat over holidays

*Business owners say little was taken, but break-ins cause wide-ranging damage*

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Just before midnight on Boxing Day, an alarm at the Kosy Korner on Highland Street in Haliburton alerted owners

Ann and Alan Gordon that the door of the downtown restaurant had been smashed. Together with police, Ann watched security footage showing a hooded suspect entering the business after-hours.

"We don't keep any money there at night," she said. "So the guy got some tip money that was allocated out for the kitchen staff that was out on the corner. As soon as he saw that, he just grabbed it and left, so for 50 bucks ... I mean, he did more damage than 50 bucks."

Ann said the door will have to be

replaced, likely at a cost out-of-pocket and that business was affected because the boards on the doors suggested the building was closed. She spent time at the restaurant with police, including a forensics team, until about 4:30 a.m.

"I feel so punched in the face," she said. "You know, here we are ... it's winter-time, things are tight, and then this happens to us."

Ann said police were responsive and

see BUSINESS page 3

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# History lost along with home

from page 1

find her house “engulfed in flames, and there were so many fire trucks and firemen.”

Bobbiejoe became hysterical, running frantically toward the house questioning where her husband was and said she couldn’t calm down until around 3 a.m. the next morning.

Ryan had been sitting on the couch in the family home when Bobbiejoe said he noticed smoke and helped the family’s dogs and birds escape – one pet bird died due to smoke inhalation. Because Ryan doesn’t have a cellphone he hadn’t been able to contact Bobbiejoe in the chaos, but was safe with the fire department when she arrived. A teenaged son, Braedon, was also safe at his dad’s house.

Stations 1, 2, 3 and 4 all responded to the fire, which is determined to have started at approximately 6:45

“

*The home is likely a total loss, and a young family of four has been displaced.*

— Acting fire chief Chris Baughman

p.m., according to Highlands East acting fire chief Chris Baughman.

“The home is likely a total loss, and a young family of four has been displaced,” he told the *Echo*.

“We lost everything,” said Bobbiejoe. “We lived in that home since 2015, so everything we owned is gone.”

Bobbiejoe said when she met Ryan, it was “pretty much love at first sight.”

The couple, looking for “a fresh start, new beginnings,” began searching the internet for homes, looking in the area of Meany.

“We came across a house in the hamlet of Highland Grove,” said Bobbiejoe, who had been living in Eldorado for just more than a decade. “We both had never heard of the place so we decided, what the heck, let’s go see it. The size was perfect for our family, the location was great, as we both did not want to be in a city. We are both 100 per cent country people.”

It was while they were viewing the home that they first met friendly people in the neighbourhood.

“We had neighbours come over and tell us different things about the home, historical things about the home. How there used to be a train that would run through the little hamlet, how it was the fourth house ever built,” said Bobbiejoe. “We both looked at each other and said, this is our new home.”

A neighbour who shared a family name with the name of the street, Cooney, told Bobbiejoe and Ryan there was much history to the home, which Bobbiejoe thinks was built sometime in the 1880s.

“We sure found that out as we started doing renovations to the home, we’ve found so many cool old things,” she said.

Behind the walls, besides a poster advertising the Wilberforce Grand Ball on Oct. 25, ’07, during ren-

ovations the family had found a poster of Arnold Schwarzenegger as a teenager, old pop bottle caps, beer bottle caps, and cigarette wrappers of brands they’d never heard of before.

Now, it’s all gone, and the Normandeau-Hennessey family is homeless. They moved into a hotel room after the fire, and since then, after a GoFundMe page launched, the family has been able to stay at a Harcourt home generously gifted to them until near the end of the year, at which point they hoped to move in with Ryan’s parents in Madoc until they might hear from their insurance company. Braedon will stay with his dad so he doesn’t have to change schools during the transition.

Bobbiejoe praised Bancroft’s high school, where the teens are students, for helping with gift cards for food, as well as others for donations of clothing and help toward the family’s recovery. At this time, they do not know what insurance might cover.

“Rebuild is not an option, due to we will not get enough back for the house to do so,” said Bobbiejoe.

A GoFundMe account has been set up for Bobbiejoe, Ryan and their two teenaged children at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/hys9ad-please-help-house-fire-victims>.

## Hydro supervisor back in court later this month

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The supervisor of the young Hydro One employee who was killed on the job in Haliburton County last year will be back in the Ontario Court of Justice in Lindsay on Jan. 16.

On Thursday, March 21, 2019, the OPP were called to the scene of an accident involving forestry work near Coleman Road. One Hydro One employee, a 25-year-old man from Sydenham, Ont., was transported to hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. Three other employees of the utility were treated for injuries, and released.

The Ministry of Labour conducted an investigation and, according to the ministry, in September, charges were laid against an individual as a supervisor and employee under two sections of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Those charges are for failing to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker, contrary to S.27(3)(c) of the act, and for failing to work in a manner that did not endanger other workers, contrary to s.28(2)(b) of the act.

The supervisor made a first court appearance on Nov. 28.

Hydro One has said it cannot comment on the matter as it is before the courts.

## Highland Grove firefighters rally to help family after fire

Highlands East Station 2 firefighters are helping to get a Highland Grove family back on their feet after fire devastated their house on Dec. 9.

The home of Bobbiejoe Normandeau-Hennessey and Ryan Hennessey, which they have lived in since 2015 with teenagers Justice and Braedon, was “likely a total loss,” according to Highlands East acting fire chief Chris Baughman.

Besides donating \$500 to a GoFundMe account created by a friend of the family, Station 2 firefighters are organizing a “rebuild breakfast” to be held later this month to raise funds for the Normandeau-Hennessey family after the December fire.

“Based on the time of year it is ... I mean, no time is a good time to lose your house, but what horrible timing. Christmas and New Year’s and you lose everything, that’s unbelievable,” said firefighter Stephane Stern. He said a fund established from efforts of the firefighters throughout the year – through initiatives such as boot drives, but also from firefighters donating their cheques back to the hall to help fund equipment or gear – supported the

monetary donation.

“We don’t want to see any family lose their house, and hopefully they rebuild within the community,” he said. “[I]f we can help ease the burden of possibly rebuilding, losing everything is horrible.”

The breakfast held on the family’s behalf will see firefighters cooking meals for anyone who stops by. “The community comes together – especially Highland Grove – whenever there’s issues like this, the community really comes together, which is nice,” said Stern.

The “rebuild breakfast” will be held at the Highland Grove Community Centre, 5373 Loop Road in Highland Grove between 9 a.m. and noon on Saturday, Jan. 18. All proceeds from the breakfast, which will be offered by donation, will be given to the Normandeau-Hennessey family. A GoFundMe account to help the family is online at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/hys9ad-please-help-house-fire-victims> and had raised almost \$2,000 at press time.

- Sue Tiffin, Staff

## Man dies in single-vehicle collision

A Bancroft man died following a single-vehicle collision east of Highland Grove over the holidays.

Bancroft OPP received a call on Dec. 23 at about 2 p.m. of a car in the ditch along South Baptiste Lake Road near Bowers Point Road. They attended along with the Bancroft fire department and paramedics from Hastings County.

The driver, who was alone in the vehicle, was pronounced dead at the scene. He was identified as James Benoit Conlin, 62, of Bancroft.

Although investigation is continuing, police say it appears the car was eastbound on South Baptiste Lake Road when it left the road on a curve and rolled.

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## Driver produces false ID, found with cocaine

A Highlands East resident is facing several charges after being stopped by OPP in the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Police say that on Dec. 28, officers conducted a vehicle stop during which time the driver showed a false ID and was arrested for “failing to identify” and obstructing a peace officer. A small amount of cocaine was found in the vehicle, which was towed.

The 29-year-old man was also charged with driving while under suspension and possession of a Schedule 1 substance. He will appear in court in Lindsay on Feb. 13.



# Registrations suspended for RE/MAX North Country Realty

JENN WATT

Editor

Sixty-five former agents of North Country Realty Inc. are transferring their licences within the RE/MAX network.

"There are currently plans underway to open a new brokerage in the Muskoka and Haliburton regions and more details will be released [in the] coming days as details are finalized," a RE/MAX spokesperson said.

Trading activities ceased at RE/MAX North Country Realty Inc., which includes offices in Haliburton, Minden and Wilberforce, following an order by the Registrar of the Real Estate Council of Ontario to suspend its registrations.

A news release from RECO was issued on Dec. 31 stating that "RECO discovered a shortfall in RE/MAX North Country Realty Inc.'s statutory real estate trust account, where consumer deposits are to be held." The statement goes on to say that "additional action may be taken."

The spokesperson for RE/MAX told the *Haliburton Echo* that the real estate company moved quickly to

address the issue, releasing the following statement:

"At RE/MAX, we are committed to ensuring the consumer is protected and in light of the recent financial matter regarding RE/MAX North Country, we took swift action to terminate the brokerage on December 23, 2019, and launch an official investigation with RECO. Our focus at this time is to protect the best interests of consumers and our dedicated RE/MAX North Country agents, and we are working tirelessly to rectify all issues within our control."

"We pride ourselves on operating with integrity and take all financial matters that affect consumers or our agents very seriously," said Christopher Alexander, regional director of RE/MAX INTEGRA, Ontario-Atlantic Canada. "At this time, we are committed to working with RECO to understand the full depth of the situation in order to take the appropriate action moving forward."

RE/MAX North Country includes offices in Huntsville, Bala, Bracebridge, Burk's Falls, Gravenhurst, Killworthy, and Port Loring, in addition to Haliburton, Minden and Wilberforce. Huntsville is the head office.

Contact information for those looking for more information can be found at [reco.on.ca/public-advisory/re-max-north-country-realty-inc](http://reco.on.ca/public-advisory/re-max-north-country-realty-inc).

## Police seek help in stolen firearms case

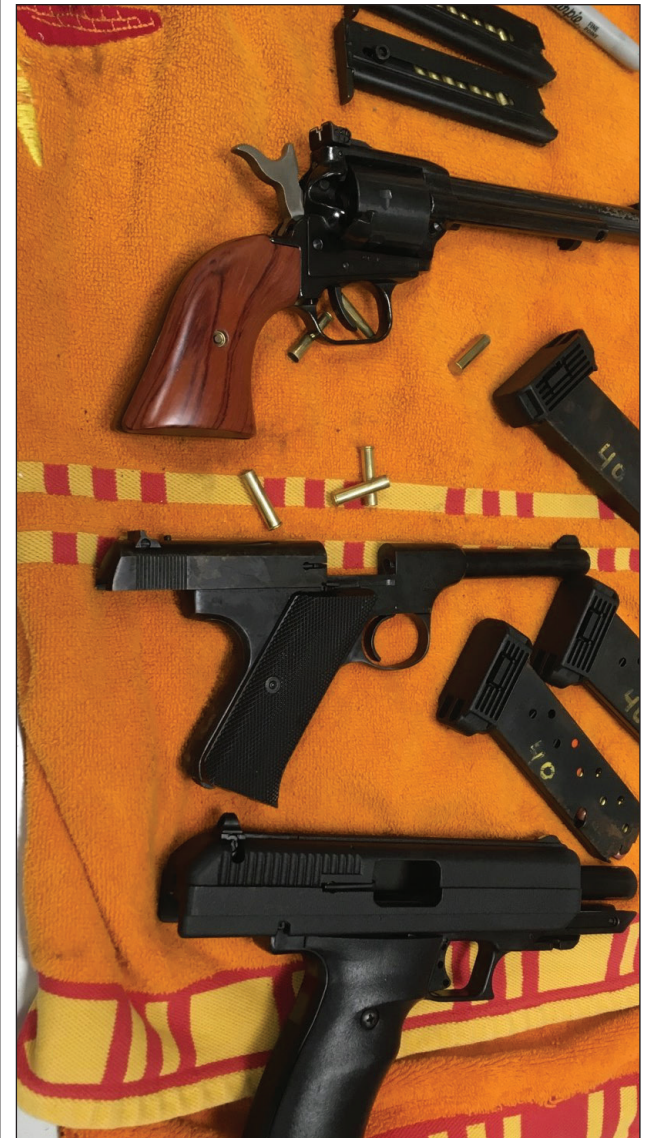
Police are looking for help in finding 12 stolen guns and identifying the person who stole them.

According to the City of Kawartha Lakes OPP, 12 restricted and non-restricted firearms were taken from a residence on Glamor Lake Road near Gooderham during the week of Nov. 1 to 8. No one was home at the time of the break-in.

Police confirm that the firearms were stored properly and say their investigation is looking into whether the residence was targeted specifically for its guns.

The OPP's forensic identification unit assisted with the investigation.

Anyone with information on this crime or any others is asked to contact the City of Kawartha Lakes OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Information can also be reported anonymously by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or by going to [www.kh.crimestoppersweb.com](http://www.kh.crimestoppersweb.com) and submitting an anonymous tip online.



Twelve restricted and non-restricted guns were stolen from a residence on Glamor Lake Road in November. Police are still working on the case, hoping to locate the guns and find out who stole them. See more images of the firearms at [haliburtonecho.ca](http://haliburtonecho.ca). /Photo courtesy of the OPP

## Business owners wants cameras on main street

from page 1

helpful at the scene, noting a homicide last year and recent break-ins in the area were concerning the community.

"Oh, they're on it," she said. "They know that there's a crime spree going on in Haliburton and they're on it for sure. They took it very seriously, it wasn't just, 'oh, the guy only got \$50, tough luck.' It was like, yeah, we're calling in forensics, we want a copy of the tape. They were taking it very seriously."

She said she posted the break-in to social media to let customers know they were welcome despite the damage to the door.

"We posted it to say we've had a break-in, and we're open for business, please come in, because we'd like to see some friendly faces," she said. "It was nice because you get very down after it happens, and everyone rallies around and you say, yeah, it's great, it's still worth it, you know?"

Ann said she would like to see the Haliburton Village BIA install security cameras on main street to help deter crime.

Colby Marcellus said he fully agrees that public security cameras could help protect businesses.

At about 3 a.m. around the same day that the Kosy Korner was broken into, Parkside Laundromat, owned by Marcellus and Craig Gordon, experienced its second break-in since October, when \$15,000 in damages and monetary loss occurred. This time, the break-in resulted in about \$10,000 in damages.

"They didn't get anything, they can't, at this point, because we've got pretty strong systems," said Marcellus. "So they weren't able to get anything, but they did cause damage while they were in there."

Marcellus said security camera footage has been

turned over to police.

"It looks like, from what we can see on the video, the guy didn't really have it that together," he said. "He did a lot of running around. The alarm is very, very loud. I think he thought he could disable the alarm so he tried to break into the office, but he smashed something that actually wasn't the alarm, so there's some of the damage. You can see him running in his pyjamas actually."

Damage to the change machine during the last break-in resulted in laundromat patrons having to wait weeks before it could be repaired. This time it is damaged but partially functional – still, Marcellus said it inconveniences people.

"It's unnerving, it's frustrating," said Marcellus. "It's not what we expect in a small town where everyone kind of works together. It's upsetting. It makes things difficult for everybody ... We've gotten to a point where we're wondering if it's even worth having a change machine which is really unfortunate because so many people rely on it."

Marcellus said they've added additional security systems, ensuring "it's not a lucrative endeavour to try to break into the laundromat, at all."

In years of owning the laundromat, Marcellus said there hadn't been a problem. Two break-ins within two months has made Marcellus and Gordon nervous.

"It's been a great business for everybody, now it certainly has us wondering and worried," he said. "And if it can happen to us, it can happen to anybody, and our businesses are so critical to the health of our community ... We'll recover, we always do, but it certainly makes us wary."

Anyone with information is asked to call Haliburton Highlands OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) to remain anonymous.

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# HHSS to stage The Rocky Horror Picture Show

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Get ready Haliburton: Let's do the time warp again! This Sunday, the Grade 11/12 drama class will stage the cult classic, rock musical from the 1970s, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton.

The story is centred on a young couple who seek refuge at a nearby castle when car trouble leaves them stranded in the country on a rainy night. At the castle, the couple meet a collection of characters, including the host of the residence and mad scientist, Dr. Frank-N-Furter.

"Our school improvement plan for the year and our professional development was designed around knowing your students and approaching curriculum with that in mind," said Grade 11/12 teacher and show co-director Ryan Merritt via email. "We wanted to offer content to fit our students, who they are and what they are into. The themes in *Rocky* played perfectly to our students. In our small drama class, we have a myriad of individuals with a wide range of identities and that is reflected in this show. It was a seamless fit!"

The opening show is on Jan. 12 with a matinee at 2 p.m. and an evening performance follows at 7 p.m. Shows will also be on Jan. 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10. Call the school for tickets or with any questions at 705-457-2950.

Co-director Greg Sadlier said this version of the musical will be altered, but remain true to the spirit of the story.

"Traditionally, *Rocky Horror* is known as a very edgy show that pushes the envelope both in regards to content and the theatrics of the performance. To make it fit with a high school cast and some of the audience who have never seen the show, some changes were made carefully while still maintaining the artistic integrity and humour. It's a version that reflects our cast," he wrote in an email.

Starring as Dr. Frank-N-Furter is 17-year-old Codie Wilkinson.

The third-year drama student said his inspiration for this role is actor Tim Curry, who portrayed his character in the movie version nearly 40 years ago. "I'm trying my hardest to get all of his character's mannerisms down while also trying to stay true to my own character of being a little bit sassy as I always try to be," he said.

The Grade 12 student, who said drama enabled him

“

*Me getting to play this role and do this play is such a huge step for our town and our school ...*

— Codie Wilkinson



Haliburton Highlands Secondary School drama students Codie Wilkinson, left, as Dr. Frank-N-Furter, and Jordy Schell, as Brad Majors, rehearse for the upcoming *Rocky Horror Picture Show* opening this Sunday, Jan. 12 at 2 p.m. at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. Shows are also at 7 p.m. on opening day and then Jan. 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10. To buy tickets or ask questions, call the school at 705-457-2950. /Submitted by Gregory Sadlier

to come out of his shell and become the person he is today, didn't have any reservations about playing this role, welcoming the opportunity when it became an option.

"Me getting to play this role and do this play is such a huge step for our town and our school, showing that we can really push comfort levels and aren't afraid of pushing the envelope, however, we of course had to tone things down a little because the original was maybe a little too heavy for a school production. I am hoping that the audience sees that the school is filled with talented and hard working people who are willing to push their boundaries for the sake of giving a good show," he wrote in an email.

Playing Brad Majors, the other male lead in the show, is Jordy Schell.

The Grade 11 student, who has five years of acting experience with local performances such as *Oliver* and *Mary Poppins* in the Highlands Summer Festival, appreciates this musical for how it inspires.

"I love how the musical pushes boundaries, and I

think the audience could take that away, how they can push their own. That art has no limits, and it's a huge leap for our high school to tackle a show with such mature and deep content," he wrote in an email.

The performance also includes Macy Miscio as Janet, Wyatt Hutchings as Riff Raff, Ryanne Horsely as Magenta, April Kovacs as Columbia, Jaxon Merrifield as the narrator, Quinton Little as Eddie/Dr. Scott, Trista Greer as Rocky, Abigail Kauffeldt, Ruthie Parker and Krystin Hope as Phantoms.

Sadlier said he hopes audiences leave the theatre thinking.

*Rocky Horror* "has always been a piece of art that is about inclusion, self discovery, relationships and redemption. It's about confronting what or who is different and other, and moving beyond fear and insecurity. Our hope is audiences will walk away pondering some of these deeper points of being human. It's also a ton of fun, so we fully anticipate audiences singing and dancing 'The Time Warp' for weeks to come!" Sadlier wrote.

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### Bikes on ice

Last weekend brought the first day of organized ice racing on Grass Lake, near the Haliburton hospital. The Stiles family said they want to bring awareness to the winter sport and are encouraging all racers to come out and try their track with their bikes. For more information, see the Stiles Marine Facebook page. Spectators are also welcome. Call 705-854-2628 for location details. /Photos by Tim Tofflemire

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### HHHS IS LOOKING FOR NEW DIRECTORS

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) Corporation has openings for new directors – local residents and cottage owners who want to help build on the outstanding health services currently provided in the county. HHHS operates facilities in Minden and Haliburton providing hospital (emergency services, acute care, and palliative), long-term care, and community services.

HHHS is privileged to have an outstanding team of health professionals and modern facilities. Challenges persist in attracting new staff, meeting the needs of our aging population, and anticipating/planning for the future.

The HHHS Board strives to bring together a group of individuals with knowledge of the community. HHHS is particularly interested in hearing from people with knowledge, experience, and/or interest in any of the following areas:

- planning and delivery of quality and accessible health services
- financial
- clinical
- legal
- information technology
- public relations/communications
- human resources
- participating on a community board

If you feel you have the time, energy, and commitment to be a Director, then we would like to hear from you by January 31, 2020. The new Directors will be appointed at the annual general meeting in June.

In addition to new director positions, HHHS is accepting applications for community members on its Finance and Quality Committees.

For further information and an application, please access our website at: [www.hhhs.ca](http://www.hhhs.ca) / administration & board / board & oversight

Or contact: Marlene Vieira  
 Executive Assistant to President & CEO and Board  
 Phone (705) 457-2527  
[mvieira@hhhs.ca](mailto:mvieira@hhhs.ca)



## points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

## Stories of 2020

**T**HE LAST YEAR in the Highlands was marked just as much with what happened outside of the county's borders as with what happened within them. As we compile some of the news stories of 2019 for our Year in Review, it's striking how much influence outside forces such as the new provincial government, federal election campaign, and global climate change movement influenced our lives here. Of course, plenty of news also came directly from Haliburtonians.

Here are a few of the bigger stories from the last year:

**Highland Wood evacuation:** When ice built up on the roof of Highland Wood long-term care home, causing enough leaking to evacuate the building, 28 residents had to be re-homed to care facilities around the county and beyond – some in Lindsay and Orillia. The move was extremely stressful for many, including residents and their family members as well as staff. Through the winter and spring, the evacuation remained a big news story because of the confusion about why the roof wasn't replaced earlier and what supports should have been made available to the residents and their families. Staffing costs during this time also hit the HHHS budget.

**Government changes:** Indications that funding from the province could be reduced to municipal governments started 2019 on an uneasy note. As the new government looked to tighten the purse strings and make bureaucracy more svelte, anxieties arose regarding

the merger of health units, changes to Ontario Student Assistance Program, reductions in grants in health care and the arts as well as an indication that the province wants municipalities to consider restructuring.

**Climate change action:** High school student Jurgen Shantz, inspired by Swedish phenomenon Greta Thunberg, led climate change protests in Haliburton throughout the year. Protests began outside the municipal offices, where

the teenager along with concerned community members, raised awareness of the climate emergency. Jurgen was later declared one of this year's Enviro-Heroes by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust along with Ron Lofthouse, a local beekeeper. The County of Haliburton also hired a new climate change co-ordinator and began work on its climate change plan –

though it passed on the opportunity to declare climate change an emergency.

**Education job action:** News in the last four months has been dominated by the tug of war between various teacher and school-worker unions and the province. On the eve of the federal election, CUPE workers reached an agreement with the province, while the elementary, secondary and Catholic teachers' unions are still battling it out with the government. One of the biggest sticking points is the teachers' desire to maintain the status quo, while the provincial negotiators look to reduce costs.



jenn  
watt

## Editorial



Highlands bonsai

by Darren Lum

## On the right foot

**"I**HOPE IT doesn't rain," Mark said, looking through the window at the sky. Low clouds, grey and rough as bark, stretched from horizon to horizon. Early darkness was not far behind. He and Liz were about to head outside. They wanted to get their fire pit ready for later. It was New Year's Eve and the decision had been made to stay home and see in the new year by themselves.

This was a joint decision after last year's experience. Seeing their neighbour crawl across the next table in a mock stalking of some handsome stranger had put both of them over the edge. It just wasn't worth a repeat of that disastrous dance at the community centre.

Some people simply couldn't handle a party without knowing when it moved from good natured fun and high spirits to embarrassingly poor choices and outright humiliation. So – this time they were planning on a walk through the woods followed by an outdoor fire topped by a champagne toast to the new year.

"Sounds pretty boring," remarked their son when they told him their plan. Mark said nothing. John had phoned to wish them holiday greetings and inquire how they were going to welcome in the new year. Quiet and serene was not his style but then, as Liz pointed out, he was still young.

Mark had taken down a dead ash in September and they now piled some of it by the rocks rimming the fire pit. Two folding chairs dragged up from the basement were covered in old blankets, awaiting occupants. The matches and newspaper were dry and ready to go and the pile of kindling was just waiting to begin. All was in place.

But first the walk. Their trails meandered through the property before ending at the road that circled the lake. Not many folks had ventured north this holiday week. The unpredictable weather together with a general malaise seemed to have gripped the country. Liz noted the entire previous year had been like that. People she knew were feeling dis-

couraged and powerless with the way the world was heading. It was hard to be optimistic as a new decade beckoned.

But Mark and Liz were determined to not get stuck in the mire of discontent and hopelessness. Instead they wanted to be thankful for and enjoy what they had in their own lives. The world and all its problems would still be there the next day, but tonight belonged to them.

Then the clouds shifted and stars began to appear. "Did you manage this?" Liz asked playfully, pointing skyward. Mark nodded with a sly smile. He told her to wait for more and he had just finished speaking when a crescent moon emerged from behind a bank of purple forms. With a white cloak to reflect the light, they had no trouble finding their way through the woods.

It was so quiet. Their footsteps crunched loudly but when they stopped to listen, they heard nothing. No need for conversation as they continued on, each lost in their own thoughts. Mark found himself remembering the year's highlights. A new grandson, Liz's successful operation, sunlight on water: there was much for which to be thankful.

Then out of nowhere came the rush of wings skimming above them. A snowy owl, its ghostly form stark against the dark tangle of branches, settled on an old maple to their left. They stopped again and watched it. No doubt on the lookout for what might venture out in this milder weather, the large bird perched fearsome and beautiful at the same time. It was in no hurry to move on and so after a while, Mark and Liz silently wished it happy hunting before continuing.

Later, beside the fire, they each sat gazing into the flames, wondering what lay ahead. After a pause, Mark stated he had decided the owl had been a sign of their coming good fortune. Liz noted that meant next year would be a repeat of this year. And then, they both raised their champagne mugs to the moon and gave thanks for who they were, where they lived and all that was still good in the world around them.

## Down



sharon  
lynch

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# points of view

## Suspending belief

I'M GOING TO be honest here. It's not easy being regarded as an international fashion icon.

I know you might not think that when you see me walking down main street all dolled up in my camouflaged hoodie, patched jeans, vintage toque and rubber winter boots. But that is only because I have a knack for making fashion appear effortless.

This is not just my presumption either. The other day, I heard a woman whisper "That guy puts no effort into fashion at all."

But, believe me sister, I do.

Take, for example, last week when I walked into one of our local fashion boutiques and sashayed right past the candy rack, lottery tickets, Crocs and discounted garden gnomes, straight towards the suspender display.

"Can I help you?" the sales lady asked politely.

"I'm looking for a pair of suspenders to complete my ice fishing look," I said. "As you can see by my matching boot laces, money is no object..."

She sized me up and quickly came to the conclusion that I was a late autumn.

Then, with all the confidence of a woman who has adorned a veritable who's who of Haliburton's ice fishing elite, she

announced, "This is the only pair of suspenders we have left."

I looked over and laid my eyes on an exquisite pair that was, miraculously, just right for me. I'm talking about a little clip-on adjustable number that was made with enough elasticity to handle any bloated ice fisherman, even after lunch.

Better still, they were made in the famous suspender fashion houses of China.

Seeing this, I strolled confidently to the change room where I tried them on to ensure they flattered my sleek runway model-like form.

Before I continue, here's an invaluable fashion tip for the fellows. Never

hitch a strange pair of suspenders directly to your underwear. Yes, it's an easy mistake to make and sure it can be enjoyable if the suspenders in question don't have the kind of elasticity that could slingshot a truck.

Sadly, however, these did.

"Are you OK in there?" the saleswoman said.

"I'm fine," I squealed in a high-pitched voice and then I explained my mistake.

Being an excellent salesperson, she capitalized on that opportunity to sell me a new pair of underwear too.

The point here is that I walked, albeit uncomfortably, out of the store with a new fashion accessory – a pair of quality suspenders.

This might come as a surprise to many of you, but prior to this, I had no real experience with suspenders unless they were attached to waders. I know, it's surprising that someone who has frequented the fashion runways from Wilberforce to West Guilford would admit to this.

Honestly, there was good reason. You see I get my fashion advice from the same standard publications most people do – *Ontario Out of Doors* and the *Farmer's Almanac*. And, in neither, had I seen any recent articles stating that suspenders were "in" this year.

Still, a strong draft experienced while ice fishing convinced me that I ought to blaze a fashion trail of my own.

That's why I took the risk.

I happen to dress conservatively, so I bought a pair in a colour that went with everything. Even so, not everyone loves hunter orange, so you should get a pair that suits you. The only advice I will offer is that they should be tailored well enough to hide your long johns and shorten your upper torso.

That's why, when I got home, Jenn could not help but notice.

"Oh my," were the only words she could muster. And they were all I needed to know that she approved.

"You like them?" I asked knowingly.

"Oh my," she repeated.

Which leads me to my second fashion tip, fellows – always buy garments that leave them speechless. Trust me; it's worth the extra buck.

In any case, now when I go ice fishing, I look even more stylish and don't feel anywhere near as uncomfortable as I used to. Provided, of course, I don't accidentally clip them to my underwear.



steve  
galea

## Loon Tales



## pic of the past

In 1922 the Standard Chemical Company purchased a Lynn Caterpillar Tractor to haul their cordwood from the Loon and Miskwabi Lake area to Donald, a distance of 14 to 16 miles. The tractor drew eight heavy sets of logging sleighs with a total capacity of 50 cords of wood. It was an exciting experience to ride in the tractor cab while hauling a train load of cordwood on a downgrade over ice roads. It travelled much like a runaway freight train. Photo and information courtesy of the Rotary Club of Haliburton's book on Haliburton's 100th anniversary.

## letters to the editor

## Nature forms cathedral of worship

To the Editor,

I write to express appreciation for Steve Galea's piece in the Dec. 19 edition of *County Life*, included in the *Echo*, headlined "The gifts in the woods." It eloquently echoes my own sentiment as I walk in the winter woods, or at any time of the year for that matter, and sense the presence of the God of creation, recognize his handprints in all that I see, hear, smell, touch and sometimes even taste and be warmed by God's love as Steve testifies.

To mangle George Washington Sears' assertion a little, "We do not go to the woods to rough it, we go to smooth it." Indeed the natural world can "form the most glorious cathedral of worship" of the living and true God whose "invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world in the things that have been made." That being true it is delightful for those with eyes to see, ears to hear and so on that this

God is the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ whose birth we celebrate at this season of the year. And it is delightful for those whose hearts are open to the truth that this Christ, in keeping with the will of his Father in heaven who sent him into the world, would 33 years later submit himself to death on a wooden cross made from a tree taken from his forest to pay for the sins of all who would trust and obey him. The manger in Bethlehem led to the executioners' torture instrument at Calvary.

The God we sense as we walk through the woods is personal and approachable by way of "the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me." And he is not dead but alive and able to save completely and for all time those who draw near to God through him. How's that for a gift in the woods? Thank you, Steve.

Don Wood  
Haliburton

## Deadline approaching for artist residency

Organizers of the Halls Island Artist Residency are reminding dancers, painters, sculptors, poets, musicians and other artists that there are only a few days remaining to apply for the 2020 season.

The artist residency is an off-grid retreat on Koshlong Lake in Haliburton County, which offers artists a chance to get away from it all for 10 to 12 days to move their practice forward. Artists can stay by themselves or bring collaborators.

There is no charge for the accommodations and all applicants must pay a \$10 administration fee.

"Last summer, 11 artists travelled to Halls Island from Newfoundland, Manitoulin Island, the Greater Toronto Area, and Eastern Ontario," Ruth Walker, volunteer management committee co-chair said. "Our community was engaged with creative presentations, work-

shops and videography, which were free and open to the public. We anticipate the residency will continue to grow to be a vital part of Haliburton's arts community."

Applications can be found at hallsisland.ca.





# 2019 Year in Review

## January

### Family comes to couple's aid after car crash

Joe and Janis Blimkie were grateful for Barry Line residents who gave them blankets and brought them home after a bad car accident on Jan. 6. The Blimkies were on their way home to Hamilton after spending time at their cottage when they lost control of their SUV and rolled into a beaver pond. Barry Line residents Darren and Teresa Johnston and their daughter Leah stopped to help, calling Jamie and Wanda Bacon for additional assistance.

### Smoke alarms save family

A family escaped their home after smoke alarms alerted them to a fire in their Wigamog Road home on Jan. 8. The house could not be saved, but firefighters were able to salvage personal items and memorabilia.

### County asks province to maintain funding level

The County of Haliburton asked the provincial government to sustain levels of municipal funding through



Competitors stay tightly packed as they take the first turns in the 2019 Sir Sam's Ski Cross Cup race on Jan. 22. The two-day event included an international field of men and women skiers from Australia, China, the U.S. and Canada. /DARREN LUM Staff

the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund for rural and northern communities. Just before Christmas in 2018, then-finance minister Vic Fedeli sent letters to councils informing them the overall amount of money the province allots to municipal governments would be decreasing.

The county representatives argued in a letter to Fedeli that rural municipalities rely on the funding to provide services and have specific challenges not experienced in urban areas, such as providing roadways connecting relatively few taxpayers.

### Fleming pledges to adapt to tuition reduction

Fleming College representatives said they would "adapt and be innovative" in response to a reduction in tuition fees announced in early January. The provincial PC government specified that domestic student tuition fees for colleges and universities be reduced 10 per cent. "It will have an impact on our domestic tuition in the

\$2.5 million range," the college communications officer said.

### Burke wins Junior Citizen Award

Haliburton's Morgan Burke, 16, an apiarist and entrepreneur learned in January that she would be receiving the Ontario Junior Citizen Award, which is given out by the Ontario Community Newspapers Association. The award recognizes those aged nine to 17 who demonstrate leadership skills, creativity, determination, generosity and a desire to make a difference.

Burke runs the company The Birds and the Bees with a line of products using honey from the bees she raises. She was also the youngest exhibitor at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in 2017, received a grant from the Summer Company program that same year, and was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce. She donated more than \$2,000 to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation through sales of her honey.

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## HHHS receives fraction of requested grants

The board of Haliburton Highlands Health Services heard at their January meeting that very little of the requested funding from the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund Exceptional Circumstances Program was granted.

"In late November [2018], we received notification that only \$33,000 of our submitted projects of \$393,000 were approved, in other words, approximately eight per cent," then-finance committee chair David Gray said.

## Local reps advocate for cell gap project

Politicians from throughout the county attended the Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference, spending some of the time meeting with provincial cabinet ministers. The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund was one of the topics as well as the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's cell gap project.

## Councillors have questions on transportation

Haliburton County councillors received a presentation from consulting firm IBI Group in January on a transportation plan. Challenges of a local public transit system include the sparse population in the large geographic area and dispersed travel patterns that make it difficult to serve. The consultant said that it was preferable for the county to start simple to judge the uptake of a new system first. The recommended model was a booked shared-ride service. Councillors expressed concern with the proposed plan including logistics and cost and said they would submit questions to county planner Charley White and discuss transportation at their budget deliberations.



Haliburton County was hit with a snowstorm that persisted for two days, leaving behind more than 25 centimetres of snow and causing numerous cancellations and postponements, including school bus cancellations in February of 2019. /DARREN LUM Staff

## Cadets recognized with Strathcona award

The Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment 1129 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps - Haliburton received the Lord Strathcona Trophy, honouring the best small corps of 2018. Commanding officer Dan Collings said the award reflects the activities the cadets participate in including pipes and drums training, biathlon, marksmanship, mountain biking and orienteering.

## Councillors defend spending on rec and cultural institutions

Much time and energy was spent during Dysart's budget meeting on Feb. 14 discussing the philosophy behind spending decisions. The long and wide-ranging discussion covered many department budgets, but also included some heated discussion about whether the municipality should be spending as much as it does in places such as the Haliburton Highlands Museum and Rails End Gallery. Councillor John Smith questioned the levels of spending on several cultural institutions, including the arena, which led to lengthy debates during the meeting.

## Wild weather week puts plans on hold

Haliburton County got about three feet of snow over the course of one week in February. Scott Moore, an amateur meteorologist from Minden, said that ice coverage on the Great Lakes was lower than 2018 causing a few extra snow squalls. "The track of many of the systems hitting the province have veered more north than the usual patterns for this time of year, which has brought us a lot more mixing of snow and rain or freezing rain," he said. Local businesses reported fewer customers due to slippery road conditions with several closing early some days. For those who rely on snowy conditions, the extra white stuff was welcomed. Chris Bishop of Sir Sam's Ski

# February

## Highland Wood roof leak leads to evacuation

All 28 Highland Wood long-term care home residents were evacuated from the building on Feb. 6 following an inspection of the building's leaky roof. Residents were transported to other long-term care facilities around the county and the region. Although Haliburton Highlands Health Services would not disclose to the *Echo* where the residents were sent, family members told the paper their loved ones were sent to Lindsay and Orillia, among other places. Highland Wood did not reopen until June.

## Glecoff honoured by BIA

Andy Glecoff was named the BIA's VIP at the annual general meeting on Feb. 5. Glecoff was credited for his work on improving the appearance of downtown, particularly through the facade project and in advocating to have hydro lines buried on the main street. Glecoff said that in the early days of the BIA, they also funded benches, garbage bins and road signs with the logos of merchants who paid for them.



Some participants in the Lions Club Polar Bear Challenge not only braved the frigid water, but made a show of the act during the annual Lions Club Polar Bear Challenge at the Frost Festival held on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019 at Head Lake Park in Haliburton. The challenge raised \$3,146 for SickKids hospital and \$4,047 for Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. The festival offered event goers of all ages something to do, whether it was snowshoeing, ice fishing, broomball or a dogsled ride. /DARREN LUM Staff

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Hundreds of people bundled up to visit the Ice Cube Gallery on Lake Kashagawigamog in front of the Bonnie View Inn on Feb. 9 and 10, 2019. The pop-up gallery event featured the work of four artists (Rod Prouse, Chris Hanson, Hendrika Sonnenberg and Victoria Ward) in three huts on one frozen lake, as well as a skating rink, ice bar and hot beverages tent, local food tasting provided by Rhubarb and Bonnie View, and music by Russell Red Records. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

and Ride said the resort was seeing its best year, though noted if the roads are too bad, the skiers and snowboarders won't be able to make it there.

### Low participation in first year of septic reinspection program

Chief building inspector Karl Korpela told the Dysart environment committee that only 28 per cent of eligible households took part in the septic reinspection program during its first year - 2018. The program is moving systematically through the municipality, requiring prop-

erty owners within 30 metres of a lake to complete a reinspection and pump-out. In 2018-2019, the first area was defined as Kennisis Lake, Little Kennisis Lake, and Paddy's Bay. The committee suggested more education in the year to come would get more people on board.

### OMPF comes through

There had been concern earlier in the year that the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund money would be reduced in 2019, but in February it was announced that the funding would remain the same as the previous year.

### Senior girls v-ball silver at COSSA

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School volleyball team won the Kawartha Championship with a closely contested 3-0 win over Campbellford on Thursday, Feb. 14 at Kenner Collegiate in Peterborough. The Hawks earned their entry into the finals with a 3-0 win over Kenner in the semi-final.

On Feb. 20, they took second place when the COSSA championship was held in Haliburton.

### Highland Wood evacuation leaves family with questions

Following the temporary closure of Highland Wood long-term care home in early February due to a roof leak, the families of the 28 residents evacuated from the building began asking questions about whether the situation could have been avoided. Gord Schmidt, who had a family member at Highland Wood, told the *Echo* that he wanted to know how the situation was able to happen. Haliburton Highlands Health Services CEO Carolyn

Plummer said that the leaks were extensive and occurred due to melting ice and snow that had built up on the roof, which was scheduled to be replaced in the spring. Schmidt said he was disappointed that the roof had not been replaced earlier. HHHS communications indicated that the long-term care home in Minden, Hyland Crest, had its roof replaced in the fall of 2018 and due to poor weather conditions, Highland Wood had to wait until spring.

### Curlers win Kawartha championship

The Red Hawks boys' and girls' curling teams both took home the top prizes on Feb. 19 and 20 in Omemee at the Kawartha Championships. The girls had an undefeated 2-0 record. The boys finished 3-0 in the competition.

### Huskies removed from Highlands East property

Twenty huskies were sent to foster locations following a visit by police to a Highlands East property. The Haliburton Highlands OPP had been on the property on Feb. 22 on an unrelated matter when they noticed the dogs, which "appeared to be in poor condition and needing some assistance." The Bancroft OPP got involved the following day when they received a call about trespassing on a Dyno Road property. The Bancroft OPP concluded that the Haliburton Highlands OPP had been on the property lawfully. On Feb. 23, the police determined the owner was getting help from the Siberian Husky Assistance and Rescue Program, which took all of the dogs into care.

### Wrestlers advance to OFSAA

On Feb. 22, HHSS wrestlers competed at the COSSA championships in Belleville. Six athletes qualified for provincials, although only five would be attending.

### Suspensions rising across school board


Many more suspensions and expulsions were handed out to students in the Trillium Lakelands District School Board in the period between September and January of the 2018-2019 school year than during the period the year before, or the year before that. The school board received updated numbers during their meeting in February showing 853 suspensions and expulsions during the five-month period, up from 744 in the same time frame in the previous school year.

## March

### Midget Storm players advance to provincials

The Highland Storm Midget team advanced to the finals for Midget CC teams against the Twin Centre Stars, a team near Kitchener. Coach James Reilly said it was a young team that was focused on development and he was thrilled that they made it to provincials.

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## Highlands East approves budget

Council approved its 2019 budget with a tax rate increase of 3.56 per cent. Mayor Dave Burton said council had encouraged staff to reduce expenses where possible. Capital projects in the budget included rehabilitation of Dyno Road and roadwork in Cardiff.

## Smith listens to public's concerns at town hall meeting

Ward 4 Councillor John Smith's first community town hall meeting ended up garnering plenty of attention on March 7 as dozens of people arrived at the West Guilford Community Centre to share their views and listen to what the new member of Dysart et al council had to say. A sizeable contingent at the meeting seemed to be attending to voice their support for cultural institutions in the municipality, funding levels for which Smith had questioned at a budget meeting in February.

## HHSS curlers advance to OFSAA

The Red Hawks boys' curling team of Dustyn McCready-DeBruin, Jacob Dobson, Liam Little and Corin Gervais advanced to OFSAA after winning the COSSA championship title in Stirling, Ont. on March 4. The boys were undefeated and finished COSSA 3-0 in the competition. The boys placed fifth at the OFSAA provincial championship in North Bay on March 20 to 23. Eighteen teams competed. The coach was Darrell Dobson.

## Coles repeats podium finish at OFSAA

Five Red Hawks competed at the OFSAA wrestling championships. The competition from March 4 to 6 drew more than 750 wrestlers from around Ontario. Charlotte Paton and Connie Oh represented the girls team and each ended the tournament with one win and two losses. Austin Weller lost his second match. Nic Graham had two wins and two losses. Aidan Coles had four wins and two losses and finished fifth in the province in the 95 kg

weight division. He is the first male wrestler from HHSS to reach the OFSAA podium (top six) in two consecutive years.

## COSSA silver caps Hawks' hockey season

The Red Hawks senior boys' hockey team ended the 2019 season with a silver medal following the COSSA championship final. They lost 1-0 to the Thunder of St. Mary, but were proud of achieving their goal of getting to COSSA.

## BMO marks 100 years in Haliburton

The Haliburton Bank of Montreal branch celebrated its long tenure in town which included four locations and some tragic events. "Most branches have not gone through what we've gone through," said Richard Wannan, manager. In 1962, manager Eric McConnell was killed when a man brought a gun to the bank and shot him. Four years later, another man robbed the bank and was thwarted by a group of armed local people who surrounded his hotel room, preventing his escape until the police could arrive. Wannan also discussed the technological changes over the last 100 years, including the advent of internet banking. What has remained the same is the small town mentality that puts emphasis on people helping people, he said.

## Federal budget contains cash for rural broadband

Money for the expansion of the rural broadband network was included in the federal budget in March. Conservative MP Jamie Schmale said he was happy to see the funding in the Liberals' budget, but noted that while a plan for further rural broadband expansion and improved cell service in eastern Ontario has been in the works for a couple of years, the funding from feds came in an election year.



Ted Brandon, right, on behalf of the Rotary Club of Haliburton, accepts the Not-for-Profit of the Year award from Richard Wannan at the Business and Community Achievement Awards on March 30, 2019 at Pinestone Resort. /DARREN LUM Staff

## Hydro One confirms death of employee

A 25-year-old Hydro One employee from Sydenham, Ont., died in an accident on Coleman Lake Road on March 21. "It is with heavy hearts that we confirm that one of our employees passed away from injuries sustained on the job while doing forestry work in the Minden area," Hydro One's statement read. "Three other employees were treated in hospital and were released."

## Protest for climate action draws support

High school student Jurgen Shantz led a climate action protest outside the Municipality of Dysart et al's office on March 22, attracting about 40 people over the course of the day. Jurgen, who was 16, said he'd like to see more green programs for the town, elimination of single-use water bottles at the high school, a reduction of plastic use and an increase in solar panel installation. He was motivated by Swedish teen activist Greta Thunberg. He would go on to lead several climate protests throughout the year.

High school student Jurgen Shantz speaks with Dysart Councillor John Smith (not shown) during the climate change strike outside the township office on Friday, March 22, 2019. Shantz was joined by close to 40 people, including members of Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County, area residents and home-school students with parents/guardians. The 16-year-old was inspired by Swedish teen activist Greta Thunberg, who inspired more than a million people to skip school and protest for action against climate change. /DARREN LUM Staff



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It's not a Rockin' '50s and '60s ice show without featuring music from *Grease*. Frankie-Jo Vaillancourt and Ella Plumb brought *We Go Together* to the ice for their duet. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

### Plans proceed for retirement facility

Dysart et al councillors received an update about the retirement residence planned for the former Fleming College property at 1 Sunnyside St. in Haliburton village at their March 26 meeting. Bill Mardimae of Gardens Retirement Development Inc. said the plan was for a four-storey facility with 120 units, about 75 of which would be built during the project's first phase.

### Todd wins Highlander of the Year

Local grocery store owner Steve Todd was named the 2019 Highlander of the Year at the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce Business and Community Achievement Awards on March 30. The award is given

to a community enthusiast and ambassador who has contributed to the betterment of the area. "I've always had an outlook on things [in which] I don't support one group in general or a few groups, I kind of support all groups, whatever I can do," Todd said in an interview.

### County starts climate change plan process

Haliburton County council supported the creation of a climate change plan for the county and its lower tiers during a meeting on March 27. A climate change co-ordinator would be hired to put the plan in place.

### Herlihey Park designed to become heart of town

A crowd came to the unveiling of the latest design of the proposed Herlihey Park in Wilberforce on March 26, hearing from architect Peter North. Plans for the park include shoreline and meadow walking trails, a beach and swimming area, a central lawn, a multi-use picnic pavilion, a playground and boat dock. "Herlihey Park will be the defining recreational amenity of Wilberforce's waterfront through a lively mix of programs, activities and healthy ecologies," he said. The land was donated by the Marcus family. Carol Marcus is the daughter of Beatrice and Harold Herlihey, who operated the Wilberforce Veneer and Lumber company on the site.

### Haliburton Rotary Club marks 75 years

The Rotary Club of Haliburton marked 75 years with a party at the Pinestone on March 27. "Someone said to me once, you know when I was a kid, everything good that happened in Haliburton was because of Rotary," said then-president of the club Ted Brandon. The club has funded many of the town's assets including the band shell, tennis courts, the installation of the train and caboose, development of the Head Lake, Skyline and Sam Slick parks, events such as Music in the Park and the summer carnival as well as the Christmas and skating party.

### Storm finishes season

The Highland Storm Midget boys' team came just shy of winning the OMHA Midget CC provincial final

against Twin Centre Stars in March. After the 2-1 loss, coach James Reilly praised the team for winning the Larry Belisle Trophy for finishing as the runner up. He said they battled to the end of the game and should be proud of themselves for the commitment they demonstrated becoming better and stronger throughout the season.

### Roof replacement begins on Highland Wood

Work began in March to replace the roof of Highland Wood following the leak that temporarily closed the long-term care home in early February. Haliburton Highlands Health Services CEO Carolyn Plummer said the insurance company concluded the failure of the roof happened suddenly and without warning.

### Dysart council eyes 6.71 per cent tax increase

Dysart councillors took a third look at the budget in March and determined a tax increase of 6.71 per cent was necessary. For residential properties with an assessment of \$100,000, the increase amounted to \$17.84 extra a year. The largest increases were needed for transportation as well as environmental services. The budget was formally passed at a meeting on March 26.

*April*

### Students join province-wide walkout

At 1:15 p.m. on April 4, the front doors of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School opened and more than 50 students walked out of class to protest changes being made to the province's education system by the PC government that included proposed increased class sizes, mandatory e-learning modules, changes to OSAP, a classroom cellphone ban and potential teacher job cuts. Thousands of students across the province participated in the walk-out.



Students left class on April 4, 2019 to protest changes proposed by the provincial government regarding OSAP, mandatory e-learning, increased class sizes, potential teacher cuts and other changes. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

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## Haliburton Rideshare comes to an end

After running for several years, Haliburton Rideshare was parked. Insufficient funds and energy were reasons cited by the Rural Transportation Options committee. The website was a forum for county residents to arrange for carpooling.

## Scott draws crowd and protesters

When MPP Laurie Scott came to McKecks Tap and Grill to be the guest speaker on April 23, she was met with a crowd of protesters holding placards expressing their displeasure with the current provincial government. Numbering close to 30, the group included members of the Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County and Environment Haliburton.

## Waitlist for financially assisted housing grows

Since 2013, the list for financially assisted housing in Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes increased 375 per cent. About 1,700 households were on the waiting list, nearly 700 of them singles or couples, 600 of them seniors and 375 families. The greatest demand is one-bedroom units. Housing prices are part of the issue, as they've increased in recent years with mortgage rules becoming more strict. With a limited supply of rental accommodations, the price of rentals is also up.



Linda Robertson, left, and Wendy Connelly of The Country Hot Flashes croon to the crowd at the Haliburton County Folk Society's sixth annual Homemade Stew concert on April 6. /CHAD INGRAM Staff



A group gathers before riding on the ski cross course during Sir Sam's Slush Fest Fat Bike Day last year. The event opened up the hill to fat bike riders - mountain bikes with over-sized tires - and included the use of the "carpet lift." /DARREN LUM Staff

## Syrup raises \$50,000 for soldiers

The maple syrup Wayne Krangle produces at his West Guilford property raised \$50,000 to help injured soldiers through Wounded Warriors Canada. Krangle started the process 10 years ago after taking an MNR course on maple syrup making. Inspired by his son, who served with the military in Afghanistan, any syrup sold put money toward the cause.

## No action on transit

Haliburton County councillors decided at a meeting in April that they would revisit the possibility of some kind of transit system during their 2020 budget discussions. They had commissioned a study in 2018, which suggested a booked shared-ride system contracted out to a private company. Councillors voiced concerns about cost, logistical challenges and a relatively small group of users. They agreed at their meeting to keep the \$50,000 allotted for transportation work and monitor trends in rural transit.

## Dysart to limit fireworks

Council passed a bylaw to restrict lighting fireworks to certain holiday weekends including Victoria Day, Canada Day, the civic holiday, and New Year's Eve. They also introduced a ban on Chinese lanterns. Violating the bylaw results in a \$100 fine.

## Funding cuts affect library operations

A 50 per cent reduction in funding to the Southern Ontario Library Service by the provincial government meant cuts in service to the Haliburton County Public Library. The provincial courier system was cut and inter-library loan was also suspended. Later in the year, some libraries reinstated inter-library loan, however, with a change in the delivery model, HCPL chose to wait until the 2020 budget year to assess costs. Inter-library loan allows patrons to request books from libraries outside of the county's system. It also links HCPL's collections with other libraries, allowing their patrons to request books from Haliburton.

*May*

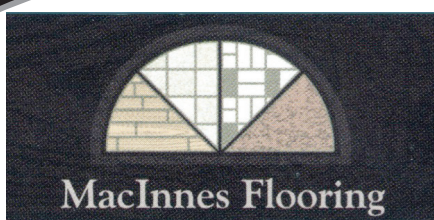
## Maple trees shown to emit methane

Adam Gorgolewski, a University of Toronto PhD candidate, presented findings from a project on maple trees' greenhouse gas emissions during the Celebration of Research at Haliburton Forest on May 10. Some living trees were known to emit small amounts of methane, however to Gorgolewski's knowledge, no research had been done on sugar maples in Canada. He took samples from numerous maples on the Haliburton Forest property and determined that sugar maples do emit methane. Healthier trees produce less than unhealthy ones and those with wounds emit a lot in comparison to those maples without wounds. The research also shows that the leaves absorb methane, becoming a "methane sink." Fellow PhD candidate Juliana Vantellingen also studies methane emissions and shared that soil both produces and absorbs methane. In general, soils in temperate Ontario forests are sinks, absorbing methane. Her work examined the impact of traffic by forestry equipment on methane fluxes from the soil, finding that overall it was not likely a concern when it comes to climate change implications.

## Home Hardware holds new store preview

Jerry and Dale Walker made the opening of their new store on County Road 21 a charitable event, charging admission during an exclusive preview night with funds going to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. Guests checked out the new store, snacked on hors d'oeuvres and enjoyed music during the popular event.

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Wilberforce Elementary School Grade 8 student Riley Boermans, far right, smiles at peer Violette Kane while making a pasta sauce during the Let's Cook program on Wednesday, May 22 at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce. The program was sponsored by the Central Food Network and Highlands East Food Hub and involved Community Cooks, a volunteer committee of the CFN. It started at the end of March and was held bi-weekly until the end of the 2019 year. /DARREN LUM Staff



## Design company takes home two national awards

ACM Designs, a Haliburton-based company, brought home a silver and bronze from the Decorators and Designers Association of Canada gala on May 3. The awards were given to ACM founder and principal designer Andria Cowan Molyneaux and junior designer Katie Golec. Cowan Molyneaux took home silver in the Universal Design of Kitchen/Bathroom category and Golec won bronze for Best Design with a Challenging Budget.

## Proposed health unit merger concerns Dysart mayor

News in May that the provincial government planned to merge the local health unit with those in Peterborough, Hastings County, Prince Edward County and Durham Region concerned Andrea Roberts, mayor of Dysart et al. She represents Haliburton County on the board of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit and said if the province moved to enact the boundary change, it would mean increased costs for municipalities.

## New health team proposed

County council supported a proposal by several health-care providers in the county to form the Haliburton Highlands Ontario Health Team. The proposal was in response to a callout from the provincial government intended to connect health providers in more locally focused regions. The process included several steps and approvals, which at press time, is still ongoing.

## Physician recruiter hired

Addressing a severe shortage of doctors in the Haliburton Highlands, the County of Haliburton provided funding to hire a part-time physician recruitment coordinator. Cheryl Kennedy was the successful applicant for the position.

## Cottage association preserving historical portage routes

Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association researched historical portage routes in the area, seeking to locate and secure the rights of way before they were forgotten or blocked. The routes connect Kennisis and other lakes and include Lipsy Lake and Cat Lake.

## Dysart moves forward with welcome centre

The Rotary Club of Haliburton presented their idea for a welcome centre and washroom facility for Head Lake Park during a meeting of Dysart council on May 28. The project would be the 75th anniversary project for the club and would require funding from the municipality and outside grant dollars. Of the estimated \$250,000 price tag, the club would pay \$75,000. The washrooms would be connected with the town's sewage system. The existing caboose information centre will not meet the 2025 accessibility standards.

## Junior girls soccer team wins gold

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School girls soccer team was ranked third going into the COSSA championships on May 30 and through hard work placed first. In the final game, they were up against the Kenner Rams. They earned their victory with a 1-0 defeat of the Rams to win gold.

# June

## Highland Wood reopens

After almost four months closed following roof leaks, Highland Wood reopened in early June. Haliburton Highlands Health Services reported in late May that the roof had been replaced, meaning the 28 residents who had been re-homed in facilities around the county and in the wider region could return.

## Layoffs at TLDSB

Some 70 support staff at Trillium Lakelands District School Board representing 55 full-time positions, received layoff notices amid reduced funding from the Ministry of Education. On June 10, the Canadian Union of Public Employees announced that a number of its members including educational assistants, clerical and custodial staff were informed they'd be losing their jobs. In September, a CUPE representative said that about half of the positions had been reinstated.

## Ron Mark wins Sovereign's Medal

Ron Mark, known for volunteering with the United Church, 4Cs, Masonic Order at the North Entrance Lodge and Shrine Club was awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. He said he thought it was a prank when he received a phone call from the secretary of the Governor General Julie Payette. "I thought it was someone pulling my leg, but I was in tears by the time it was over," he said.

## Track team impresses at OFSAA Eastern Regionals

Several athletes from HHSS competed on June 6 to 8 in Guelph at the OFSAA provincial championships in track and field. Many high school athletes qualified and competed in various events.

## Gimon and Coles named Athletes of the Year

Aidan Coles and Natalya Gimon were selected as the Athletes of the Year at the 41st annual Athletic Banquet on June 13 at HHSS. Gimon was described as a natural athlete with a commitment to hard work and training. Coles was praised for his humility, called "an athlete, a scholar, a leader, a gentleman and a friend."



Nick Toth gives the valedictorian's address. He said that Haliburton High would be a part of the grads' hearts forever. /JENN WATT Staff

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## Study finds Haliburton's region most popular for snowmobilers

A study released in June found that District 6, the area covering Haliburton through Pembroke, was the most commonly visited region in Ontario by snowmobilers in the 2018-2019 season. The report was based on 10,464 responses to a survey sent to those with OFSC permits as well as permit holders from the past five years. The survey found that the northern parts of Ontario had a better than usual winter for snowmobiling with about 17 weeks of good conditions, whereas the two largest districts by population in southern Ontario (4 and 5) only had available trails for one to four weeks due to rain and freezing rain. More than 11 per cent of respondents said the region including Haliburton was the area they most commonly chose to ride.

## Ash program seeks to 'wake' forests

A legacy of acid rain, falling calcium levels in some forests and lakes has put pressure on the entire ecosystem, slowing the growth of trees and their ability to capture carbon and endangering calcium-rich aquatic life-forms, a process Norman Yan calls "ecological osteoporosis." Information gathered for the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations found that of the 118 Haliburton lake basins, 17 per cent have a "calcium levels low enough where calcium rich animals in those lakes are at risk." To combat this, Ash Muskoka is using grant funding to launch a non-industrial wood ash recycling program which is to include the Haliburton Highlands. Volunteers donate wood ash, which will then be spread in designated forests, enhancing tree growth and leading to improved levels in adjacent lakes. The project will determine what doses of ash are needed and prove their benefits in three sugar bushes at first with a goal to apply that knowledge to a 10- to 15-hectare catchment using larger volumes of ash.

## Man charged in Haliburton homicide

The OPP investigated a homicide that took place in Haliburton Village on June 18. Police were called to a house along Highland Street just after 1 a.m. where they found the body of a deceased man, Robert Brown, 49, of Haliburton. Thirty-three-year-old Norman Hart was arrested and charged with second-degree murder.

## Living Libations opens

Haliburton-based botanical health and beauty product business Living Libations opened the doors to its new headquarters on Harburn Road on June 20, revealing a 20,000-square-foot facility that took years to complete. The business was founded by Nadine Artemis and Ron Obadia. The three-storey building includes a boutique, solarium and outdoor patios. Living Libations employs about 40 people.

## Skatepark vandalized, camera goes up

Recreation program co-ordinator Andrea Mueller told Dysart councillors at their June 25 meeting about two incidents of the new skatepark being vandalized with graffiti. A security camera that had already been purchased was to be installed above the skatepark. In addition, two cameras in Head Lake Park were being reactivated after the homicide on June 18. "It's for our security," Mayor Andrea Roberts said.

ated after the homicide on June 18. "It's for our security," Mayor Andrea Roberts said.

## Cannabis fair proposed for Head Lake Park

Councillor Larry Clarke said a proposal had come to the events and recreation committee of Dysart et al for a three-day marijuana fair to be held in Head Lake Park in September of 2020. The event would be a wellness and vendor type fair, not a big festival, he said. Organizers were informed that smoking and vaping is not permitted in Head Lake Park and that they would need a park use permit and the park would need to be gated to prevent underage attendees. Organizers were to make a delegation at a later date.

## HHSS students graduate

Friends and family came together to celebrate commencement with the 95 students in the class of 2019 at the Athletic Complex at HHSS. Valedictorian Nick Toth said that Hal High would be part of the grads' hearts forever. The Governor General's Academic Medal was given to Vaibhavi Marathe. The Lieutenant Governor General's Award for Community Service went to Liam Little.

## Teacher receives Teaching Impact Award

Kelly Davis, a French immersion teacher at Stuart Baker Elementary School, received the Teaching Impact Award of Excellence from the school board. She has been teaching for about 30 years and said she was surprised to hear she won. She was called "loving and kind while still being firm and fair."

*July*

## Lyle Stamp and Pat Bain named Pioneer Citizen Award winners

Known for their generosity and community spirit, Lyle Stamp and Pat Bain were each given a West Guilford Pioneer Citizen Award at the Canada Day celebration. Stamp was born on Pine Lake in 1944 and was an informal ambassador for West Guilford known for his

antics and one-liners. Bain's years as a teacher were highlighted, called a "shining example of a person who has chosen to overcome the hard times with a fierce determination to be the better person and to also make the world a better place."

## Feds commit to EORN project

The long-awaited announcement that the federal government would contribute funding to the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's cell gap project happened in early July, meaning that all the funding was finally in place for the project to proceed. It will provide mobile broadband internet to areas of eastern Ontario that have no or poor service, including parts of Haliburton County. A federal contribution of \$71 million matches the same amount from the province. \$10 million comes from the municipalities that make up the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (which includes Haliburton County) and the remaining \$61 million comes from the mobile service provider companies.

## Police investigate murder in Highlands East

The Ontario Provincial Police were called to a homicide in Highlands East on July 6. Robert Ferguson, 58, of Highlands East was arrested and charged with second-degree murder. The deceased was identified as Dylan Dahlke, 29, of Dysart et al.

## Duchene joins the Predators for seven years

Haliburton's Matt Duchene found a new NHL home after a short stint with the Columbus Blue Jackets following the start to the season with the Ottawa Senators. Duchene signed a seven-year deal worth \$56 million on Canada Day, joining the Nashville Predators.

## Thousands raised for epilepsy research

More than \$60,000 was raised for epilepsy research through Katie's Run in Haliburton on July 6. The eighth annual event included a five-kilometre and 10-kilometre trail run and a 2.5-kilometre walk/run. The huge fundraising total was bittersweet as the money was raised in memory of Scott Van Gurven who died of sudden unexpected death in epilepsy, or SUDEP, and Levi VandenBrink, who died in a plane crash in 2018. VandenBrink

Darlene Bradley, Hydro One's acting chief operating officer, right, discusses the expansion project at the Minden Transmission Station on July 17 with local MPP Laurie Scott, middle, and Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin. The official groundbreaking ceremony marked the commencement of a \$33 million project, which will be fully completed in 2021, bringing greater reliability, safety and power output. / DARREN LUM Staff



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was the boyfriend of Katie Woudstra, after whom the event is named. She called it a “shocking, monumental, life-shattering loss.”

## Rotary Beach reopened after boat fire

The beach on Head Lake in Haliburton was reopened on July 18 by the Municipality of Dysart et al after staff determined debris from a boat fire had been adequately cleaned up. On July 14, Haliburton Fire Department responded to a fire on a boat at about 5:15 p.m. The occupants had been taken to safety, but it took some time for firefighters to reach the vessel and put out the blaze. The boat was towed to Rotary Beach, off of Park Street. The MOE said it was satisfied with the beach clean-up.

## Meteorites fall near Cardiff

A meteorite sparked so much interest from academics that Western University put out a press release about “a fireball as bright as the full moon” captured on video. Scientists believe it likely dropped a small number of meteorites in the Bancroft area, south of Cardiff.

## Requirements delay retirement residence

A series of complicated technical requirements and legal opinions delayed the beginning of construction on a retirement residence slated for the former Fleming College property on Sunnyside Street in Haliburton. The developer told council he hoped to have a building permit issued by mid-August. The original intention was to have the project started in June, however, because of a previous Ontario Municipal Board hearing on a prior condo proposal for the property, there is a hold on zoning that requires a number of studies and reports to be completed before the municipality and developer can enter into a site plan agreement.

## Concern over closing fire halls

Highland Grove residents were worried about what they feared was the potential closure of their fire hall, while Highlands East councillors and staff said a decision on Station 2 had “absolutely not” been made. Talk of fire hall closures has been a topic in Highlands East since recommendations in a 2009 master fire plan report suggested the replacement of Station 1 with a station closer to Cardiff, the replacement of Station 4 and the municipal building with a new structure and the closure of Station 2 in an effort to reduce costs. Contacted by the *Echo*, Mayor Dave Burton said that “there’s been absolutely no discussion about closing halls” and thought inaccurate information was circulating on social media.

# August

## Recycling costs continue to rise

The landscape for recyclables is changing with costs likely to go up for municipalities. On Aug. 8, members of Dysart et al’s environment and climate change committee heard from two companies that handle local recycling about the pressures they’re facing. A representative from Waste Connections discussed “huge changes” for the industry including declining values for their materials. Commodity values remain depressed and are variable from week to week and it is now more labour inten-

sive to have materials properly cleaned before they are shipped. They also heard from Garbutt Disposal, with Jim Garbutt saying in the company’s 50-year history they’ve “never been [in] such a pickle as we are now with recycling” losing money on paper and cardboard. Councillor John Smith said plans were underway to discuss with businesses how they can lessen the amount of recyclables they bring to the Dysart landfills, a cost that is currently borne by the taxpayers.

## Highlands Opera Studio faces financial challenges

The loss of financial support from the Ontario Arts Council made 2019 an “extremely challenging year” for the Highlands Opera Studio, its general director Valerie Kuinka said. “We have grown to expect and count on that support of \$15,000 to \$20,000 as we have received it every year since I began applying six years ago. It seems rural arts organizations have been hardest hit,” she said. Funding to the Ontario Arts Council was cut by \$10 million.

## Municipal funding cuts on the way

The provincial government will proceed with funding cuts in 2020, Premier Doug Ford confirmed at the Association of Municipalities conference in Ottawa in August. The cuts will come in the areas of public health and childcare and will be effective Jan. 1, 2020. “There is little doubt that all of us are going to be hit with changes and, in all likelihood higher taxes,” Warden Liz Danielsen said, naming health care, ambulance, long-term care and housing as causes for concern.

## TTC streetcar in woods draws social media attention

A photo depicting the rusted out shell of a TTC streetcar off Kennaway Road posted on Twitter by a Toronto city councillor on Aug. 19 caused a minor online stir, garnering close to 1,500 likes within a day. The *Echo* did some digging to find the origins of the streetcar. Former Scout Reserve staff member Ken Wrigglesworth told the paper notes from 1966 say the streetcar arrived in 1955 used by lumber cutting contractors, who were supplying the Curry Mill, as a dining hall and summer toolshed. The W.R. Curry property was sold to the Oshawa District Scouts in 1955 and was purchased by Sam and Adelaide McLaughlin.



Using a long exposure shows off the light from the swing and carnival rides at the Haliburton Rotary Carnival on Wednesday, Aug. 7 at Head Lake Park in Haliburton. Thanks to the Rotary Club of Haliburton, the annual event, which included a fireworks show and midway with games and rides, has been a summer staple for decades. /DARREN LUM Staff

## Dysart council imposes Garlon ban

The Municipality of Dysart et al decided to ban the use of herbicide Garlon. During an Aug. 27 meeting, council heard delegations from presidents of two lake associations requesting the municipality ban Garlon, which is used by Hydro One to kill small trees and woody plants. Council chambers was full for the presentation. A vote on a recommendation that was less stringent than an all-out ban was defeated, which meant support for a motion that had passed in April instructing Hydro One to cease use of Garlon stood.

## Smith sparks museum debate

On Aug. 27, Dysart Ward 4 Councillor John Smith once again criticized the budget of the municipally owned and operated Haliburton Highlands Museum during a council meeting, prompting a strong response from Councillor Larry Clark. Smith has been repeatedly critical of what he calls the museum’s low revenues in relation to its budget and has brought the subject up at most Dysart council meetings since budget talks in the winter.

# September

## Dysart approves residence site plan

Dysart council approved the site plan for the proposed retirement residence on Sunnyside Street in Haliburton and entered into a site plan agreement with the developer. A series of complicated technical requirements caused some delay in the project. Councillors unanimously approved the site plan at a meeting on Sept. 9. The two-phase project is planned to include 120 units with the first phase being 70 units.

## Vandalism leads to temporary closure of Enchanted Forest

Signs directing visitors to the Story Tree, Wishing Well and The Nest were strewn on the ground at the entrance of the Enchanted Forest at Abbey Gardens, left broken following vandalism to the children’s play area that hap-

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High school students hold out their hands to encourage Stuart Baker Elementary School students such as Marshall Heasman, as they participate in the Terry Fox Run at the track on Sept. 27, 2019. /DARREN LUM Staff



opened some time Sept. 7 or 8. Staff at Abbey Gardens were perplexed by the destruction to a place that not only served as a venue for children to play, but was also created by children. Later in the year, 100 Women Who Care donated thousands of dollars to rebuild.

### New arts foundation established

A group of community members got a new initiative off the ground in September with the establishment of the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation, which aims to build a world-class performing arts centre in Haliburton County. The vision is of a place for "concerts, plays, recitals, opera, musicals, film festivals, workshops and masterclasses." The Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, a cherished local facility, has some challenges including being unavailable on school-board designated weather event days and no alcohol permitted on the property. There is also a desire for a lounge and kitchen facility.

### LCBO outlets bubbling up around the county

A couple of announcements during 2019 opened up the possibility of more access to alcohol in the county. Tory Hill, Harcourt, Fort Irwin and Norland were all listed as eligible for convenience outlets, which provide access where there isn't an LCBO retail store already.

### More women seeking help from YWCA

Women have been seeking help in greater numbers in Haliburton County over the last year. During the Take Back the Night march on Sept. 19, Denise Morton-Sayles of YWCA Haliburton said from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019 they "saw a 30 per cent increase in the number of women seeking services at the YWCA in Minden." There was also a 38 per cent increase in those accessing the Haliburton Emergency Rural Safespace, also known as HERS.

### Protesters demand action on climate change

A group of students and community members joined together on County Road 21 outside the high school in Haliburton on Sept. 20 demanding action on climate change as part of the Global Climate Strike. Dozens of people joined the protest, though there was some frustration that there were too few young people out, with a large group of older community members filling out the ranks. The students who came out said they were worried about the future of the planet and the prospects of their generation and the generations to come.

### No reimbursement for families of displaced Highland Wood residents

Family of residents of Highland Wood who incurred expenses when they travelled to visit their loved ones during the evacuation of the long-term care home were informed in September by Haliburton Highlands Health Services that they would not be reimbursed. Letters were sent to families who had requested reimbursement explaining that efforts made to find funding had been unsuccessful. One family member contacted the *Echo* to say she was disappointed with the outcome. The family member said her mother, who is in her 80s, had driven back and forth to Lindsay putting miles on her car to see her father, who was moved to Lindsay during the evacuation. Receipts were \$353 excluding meals. HHHS did provide free transportation, but it wasn't available with the frequency the family said they needed.

### CUPE begins work-to-rule

On Sept. 30, CUPE members including education assistants, clerical staff, custodians and library staff across the province began work-to-rule after contract negotiations with the provincial government failed to reach a deal. Job action came from a desire to protect educational services for students, CUPE said, listing the closure of school libraries during student lunch breaks because of too few

workers, school cleaning cuts, educational assistants having to stretch their time between too many students, and communications with parents deteriorating with fewer secretaries.

### Changes to library suggested at budget meeting

Converting more library branches to book depots or reducing operating hours at some branches were among the ideas broached during a budget-focused meeting of the Haliburton County Public Library board on Sept. 25. A draft budget report prepared by library CEO Bessie Sullivan showed a total library budget increase for 2020 of nearly \$85,000. The library's annual budget is in the \$1-million range, the bulk of that cost being wages and benefits. The report also indicates it would cost \$15,000 to keep the inter-library loan program operating at the same capacity it had been in 2018.

### HHHS faces deficit from Highland Wood closure

The closure of Highland Wood long-term care home for nearly four months due to multiple roof leaks was responsible for most of the \$245,000 year-to-date deficit as of the end of July for Haliburton Highlands Health Services, the board was told in September. In addition to the unfunded operating expenses at Highland Wood, the health-care corporation also experienced high rates of overtime and sick time.

### Campaign helps Feed Company owner into retirement

For more than two decades, The Great Haliburton Feed Company took in strays, giving them shelter and finding new families, placing thousands of pets in loving homes. It was how Haliburton cottagers and TV hosts Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan first met Maureen Adams and her husband Charles McAleaney. When they found out Adams was closing the shop less than a year after McAleaney's unexpected death, they decided to launch a GoFundMe page to help. More than \$11,000 was raised.

### Hydro One supervisor charged in death of employee

The supervisor of the young Hydro One employee killed on the job in Haliburton County in March was scheduled to appear in court in November. The Ministry of Labour conducted an investigation and in September charges were laid against an individual as a supervisor and employee under two sections of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

# October

### Deal struck with CUPE

In early October it seemed likely schools would be closed with a looming strike by CUPE workers, however negotiations over the weekend of Oct. 5 and 6 led to a tentative deal. "From what I do know, it's a fair deal," Bill Campbell, president of CUPE Local 997 said. The next layer of bargaining – local bargaining – is still to take place.

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Candidates running in the federal election took questions from the audience at Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre on Oct. 9, 2019 ahead of the Oct. 21 election. Conservative MP Jamie Schmale, right, was re-elected. / DARREN LUM Staff



## Council green-lights retirement home construction

A holding provision on zoning at 1 Sunnyside St. in Haliburton was finally lifted, meaning that construction on a retirement residence on the property could proceed. Council voted to lift the provisions following months of paperwork and planning at their Oct. 9 meeting.

## Review suggests one municipal building, fewer fire stations in Highlands East

After conducting surveys and face-to-face interviews with municipal staff and councillors, a consultant hired by Highlands East issued its report on Oct. 8. The report recommended reducing the number of fire stations, implementing a "one-team" mentality, creating one office centrally located for staff, changing the organizational structure and having an elected deputy mayor. Chief administrative officer Shannon Hunter said council would consider the recommendations during strategic planning and budget processes. It cost more than \$27,000 for the review.

## SIRCH celebrates 30 years

Former and current staff members, volunteers and recipients of SIRCH Community Services initiatives took to the microphone on Oct. 17 at a celebration of the organization's 30 year history in Haliburton. The evening event included many testimonials about how programs kept people engaged with the community, provided access to food and resources, and offered practical job training. Executive director Gena Robertson was gifted a print by David Beaucage Johnson in recognition of her role in guiding the organization.

## Riding re-elects MP Jamie Schmale

The voters of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock again chose Jamie Schmale to represent them on Parliament Hill following the federal election on Oct. 21. The incum-

bent Conservative MP defeated challengers Judi Forbes (Liberal), Barbara Doyle (NDP), Elizabeth Fraser (Green) and Gene Balfour (People's Party). "We worked hard, we pushed hard to the finish line ... and because of each and every one of you, we kept this riding Conservative blue," Schmale told his supporters during a party at The Cat and the Fiddle in Lindsay on election night. Results of Student Vote indicated that, if they were able to vote, the students at HHSS would have chosen Schmale as well. In order of preference, the students voted for Schmale, Doyle, Fraser, Forbes and Balfour.

## Stricter laws needed to deter teen vaping, health board hears

More regulations need to be in place around vaping in order to curb numbers of teenage users, a tobacco control officer with the health unit said. During a meeting of the board of health on Oct. 17, Lorne Jordan explained what he called "pretty much an epidemic" of vaping and pointed to advertising as well as flavoured vape pods as part of the problem. A resolution calling on the province to tighten restrictions was to be passed at a subsequent meeting.

## Little wins big at Kawartha

HHSS cross-country runner Isaac Little captured the Kawartha senior boys title during a muddy and challenging six-kilometre race at the Ganaraska Forest on Oct. 16. Logan Heaven, a first-year senior, finished eighth with Brendan Coumbs, Jacon Dobson and Jonas Moghini putting in strong performances. Overall, the team placed second. Nick Phippen took third place for junior boys in the five kilometre race.

## Field hockey team wins Kawartha

The Red Hawks varsity field hockey team were queens of Kawartha on Oct. 15 with a 1-0 win over the Mustangs of Crestwood. Defeating St. Peter Catholic Secondary School in the semi-finals pitted them against the Mustangs in the final.

## Spike in opioid overdoses, deaths in 2018

There was a surge in opioid-related overdoses and deaths in the area served by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit in 2018. During an Oct. 23 meeting, Haliburton County councillors received a presentation on the Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland Drug Strategy which highlighted 222 suspected drug overdose related ER visits, which includes opioids and other drugs, among HKPR residents in 2018. In 2018, there were 29 hospitalizations related to opioid use, and 20 deaths from January to September – nearly 2.5 times higher than the same period in 2017.

## Cross-country runners head to OFSAA

Red Hawks cross-country runners Isaac Little and Nick Phippen each placed third in their age categories at COSSA in October, earning them a place in the provincials in Sudbury. The athletes said they were excited to represent their school and town. Haliburton resident and student at Lakefield College School, Evan Armstrong, also earned a spot at OFSAA, placing second in the novice field at the CISAA cross-country championships. Armstrong would go on to place 68th, Phippen 144th and Little 110th in their respective categories.

## HHSS received \$99,000 in funding

On Oct. 17, the Ministry of Health announced \$68 million in funding for small- and medium-sized hospitals across the province. Haliburton Highlands Health Services received funding of \$99,000, which CEO Carolyn Plummer said in her October report would "help support the continued operation of our hospital services for this fiscal year."

# November

## Three Haliburton County residents charged in theft and drug ring

Detectives were investigating a number of suspects in a multi-jurisdictional theft and drug operation regarding thefts and drugs connected to Haliburton County, Muskoka and Bancroft. "To date, officers have recovered skid steers, trailers, boats and snowmobiles among other items," a press release from the OPP said. A 38-year-old Minden Hills resident and a 28-year-old Minden Hills resident were arrested and charged with multiple offences including possession of prohibited weapons and property obtained by crime over \$5,000. A 42-year-old Dysart resident was arrested and charged with multiple counts of theft.

## Forest festival discontinued

In November, organizers of the Haliburton Forest Festival announced the end of the 13-year-old music event. "The most compelling [reason for ending the festival] is that the Forest Festival needs a stunning facility like Bone Lake [Amphitheatre] to continue, meaning that its future viability without such a facility is very limited," a press release from organizers said. It was deemed too expensive to rebuild the amphitheatre. Ticket sales had also declined in recent years.

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## Elementary teachers begin work-to-rule

Local elementary teachers began work-to-rule job action on Nov. 26 as central contract talks between the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario and the provincial government stalled. Key issues at the table according to ETFO were the need to address violence in schools, supports for special education, class size and class structure, transparent hiring practices and preserving all-day kindergarten.

## More than 11,000 residences without power

Much of Haliburton County went dark on Nov. 24 for the full day during a scheduled outage for upgrade work to modernize the electricity grid and replace aging infrastructure. Nearly 100 Hydro One power line workers installed four smart switches and replaced 24 wood poles throughout the county during what was a chilly day for many without power. Some community members raised issue with the company choosing a day in late November for the work, as temperatures are quite low during that time. There was also some confusion around which homes would be without power.

## Cardiff pool, Glamorgan garage in need of replacement

Highlands East received a report at its meeting on Nov. 12 about the condition of 34 municipal buildings, which found that overall, buildings are in fair condition. However, the representative from the architecture firm that did the report recommended that Cardiff replace its pool facility at a cost of about \$2.5 million or at least build a new change room and mechanical services room at a cost of \$600,000. The Glamorgan equipment shelter and garage was also in bad shape and was at risk of total collapse. Fixing it would cost more than \$290,000.

## Savage found guilty in Haliburton murder

William Savage was found guilty of first-degree murder following a trial that began Sept. 23 in Lindsay. Savage was accused of killing Bowmanville resident David Palmer, whose remains were discovered in Haliburton in May of 2016. Jury deliberations began Nov. 22 with a verdict returned the next day. On Dec. 3, Savage was sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole for 25 years.

## Pickup driver dies in 118 crash

Local resident Justin Daniels died and another man was airlifted to hospital in Toronto following a collision on Highway 118 near St. Peter's Road on Nov. 20. Four vehicles were involved in the collision, including a cement truck, two pickup trucks and an SUV. The highway was closed for a number of hours while police investigated. Daniels was remembered as a family man with a love of music.

## County buys Wee Care building

On Nov. 27, county councillors approved the purchase of the Wee Care facility on County Road 21. The 3.5-acre property and building were appraised at \$800,000 and a purchase price of \$770,000 was negotiated. "This ensures that both [licensed] daycares within the county stay under public ownership," CAO Mike Rutter said dur-



Shay Hutchings models the dress called A Guiding Light, designed and produced by Wyatt and Beatrice Hutchings at Fashion Fallies on Saturday, Nov. 16 in the great hall of Haliburton School of Art + Design. The sold out show featured the work of 34 designers, amateur and professional, and included live entertainment. /DARREN LUM Staff

ing the meeting. During the summer, the county voted to purchase the daycare centre in Minden from Ontario Early Years Centre for \$2. It is operated by Compass Early Learning and Care. The county, as the new landlord, is entering into a 10-year lease agreement with Wee Care for its continued operation of the centre.

## Family donates land for future rec centre

The Blair family donated a large parcel of land to the Municipality of Dysart et al for the purpose of a future recreation centre. The land is at the corner of Soyers Lake Road and County Road 21. "I am making this gesture in honour of my parents, Lee and Marie Blair," Marnnie Blair wrote in a letter to council. Mayor Andrea Roberts said the donation of the land was a first step toward a potential new facility. "So, no promises, but at least with this gift, we are able to have land," she said.

## Davis, longtime local politician, dies

Bill Davis, former county warden and longtime member of Dysart et al council, died on Nov. 30 in his 78th year. He was most recently deputy reeve, retiring from politics in 2014. He was involved in many pursuits in the Highlands during his lifetime and was a paramedic for Dysart et al as well as a dispatcher for the Ministry of Health.

## Residents show up for town hall meeting

Dysart et al residents filled council chambers on Nov. 30 for a town hall meeting with Mayor Andrea Roberts and Deputy Mayor Patrick Kennedy. The bulk of the nearly two-hour meeting was an opportunity for ques-

tions from the floor with people asking about landfills, traffic, stop signs, tourism promotion and many other items. Concern about plans for the landfill and recyclables was a hot topic.

# December

## Teachers conduct two one-day strikes

Members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation ramped up their pressure on the provincial

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government with two one-day strikes during December: one on Dec. 4 and another on Dec. 11. The secondary school teachers say provincial government proposals would drastically change the education system, referencing increased class sizes and the introduction of mandatory online learning as sticking points during negotiations. The teachers also asked for an annual cost-of-living wage increase. Minister of Education Stephen Lecce said the government was reasonable in negotiations and said the OSSTF pay and benefits requests were too expensive for the taxpayer.

### Man dies after truck breaks through ice

Larry Bagg, 57, died after his truck went through the ice on Bushwolf Lake, near Eagle Lake, on Dec. 14. He was plowing a track on the ice when his vehicle broke through and was the lone occupant in the vehicle when the first responders arrived. He was recovered from the truck by the Algonquin Highlands Fire Department and was taken to hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

Bagg was remembered fondly as an integral member of the Eagle Lake community, quick to lend a helping hand to others.

### Birders aflutter over varied thrush visitor

A bird rare to Ontario created a flap at the Bark Lake Leadership and Conference Centre as a steady migration of birders made their way to check out the varied thrush that had taken up residence outside the office. The songbird is typically found on the west coast of North America, but a few are usually spotted each year in eastern Canada.

### Sports hall of fame planned for county

The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame will celebrate sports excellence and community spirit as well as the history of sport in the county. The volunteer organizers of the proposed hall of fame visited Dysart council at their Dec. 16 meeting, requesting support for the concept and an initial display area for artifacts, pho-

tos, plaques and memorabilia to be established inside the A.J. LaRue Community Centre.

### Lipsy Lake association requests no signage for portage route

The Lipsy Lake Cottage Owners' Association requested that Dysart et al minimize promotion of a portage route between Kennisis Lake and Lipsy Lake. In October, councillors heard from members of the Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association, who were seeking support for their traditional rights of way project. A number of portage paths allow access from Kennisis and Redstone lakes to other area lakes and rivers. Council granted KLCOA permission to erect signage on a municipally owned right-of-way. At their Dec. 16 meeting, a representative from LLCOA cited concerns about invasive species, the spiny water flea being inadvertently transferred between lakes and requested council minimize promotion of the route. Councillors said they would take the new information into consideration.



Santa waves to kids at the parade in Wilberforce on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019, before meeting with them one-on-one at the Lloyd Watson Centre. / DARREN LUM Staff

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# Phillips wins trip to sunny Cayo Coco, Cuba

JENN WATT  
Editor

Heather Phillips thought someone was playing a trick on her when she got the call from Renzo Rosati of the Downtown Haliburton Business Association that she

won two tickets to Cayo Coco, Cuba. The call came just before Christmas, on Dec. 23, while Phillips was at work at Century 21.

"I thought I was being pranked," she said, explaining she had put her home phone number on the ticket, so assumed the call at work was a joke.

Turns out she was indeed the winner of an all-inclusive trip for two to Cuba at Meliá Jardines Del Rey Resort, organized by Linda Coneybeare at Transat Travel as part of an annual local shopping initiative of the Downtown Haliburton Business Association.

Phillips said she filled out about 10 bal-

lots during the promotion, which encouraged downtown shopping leading up to Christmas with a live draw on Moose FM. Shoppers could fill out a ballot each time they made a purchase at a participating downtown business. The winning ticket was filled out during the women's shopping night at Aprons and Soaps. Phillips had a choice of the trip or \$1,000 cash.

Transat Travel has been organizing the trips for at least six years, Coneybeare said. She selects the destination in consultation with Rosati based on her knowledge of the best warm places to visit within the business association's budget.

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60					61					62			
63					64					65			
66					67					68			

- CLUES ACROSS

1. Indicates number of days

6. When you hope to get there

9. Hairstyle

13. Black (Spanish)

14. Expresses pleasure

15. Away from wind

16. Tech pros organization

17. Wile E. Coyote is familiar with it

18. Clean

19. Saints' signal caller

21. A way to hunt

22. Poetries

23. Automobile

24. Secondary school (abbr.)

25. Indicates before

28. Male parent

29. Short-billed rails

31. It pays to keep yours

33. On occasion

36. David \_\_, US playwright

38. Slang for cigarette

39. Vaccine developer

41. Returned to health

44. Toni Morrison novel

45. Period between eclipses

46. Veterans battleground

48. Gang

49. A radio band
51. Jaws of a voracious animal

52. Elaborate garments

54. Chinese province

56. Checks

60. Horizontal passage

61. Steep hillsides

62. Fertility god

63. Dried-up

64. Signs a name

65. \_\_ Winger, actress

66. German river

67. Gov't lawyers

68. Take something somewhere
21. City of Lights

23. A place to sleep

25. Advanced degree (abbr.)

26. The back

27. Furniture-makers Charles and "Ray"

29. Songs to a lover

30. Gland secretion

32. 10 meters

34. Disfigure

35. Stores grain

37. Sacred book of Judaism

40. Catch

42. Promise

43. Challenges

47. Russian space station

49. Banking giant

50. Served as an omen

52. Drenches

53. Type of sword

55. Minor planet

56. Messenger ribonucleic acid

57. Japanese ankle sock

58. Obtain in return for services

59. Waste matter

61. A proposal to buy at a specified price

65. Unit of loudness
- CLUES DOWN

1. \_\_ Blyton, children's author

2. Colleague

3. "The African Queen" writer

4. Crater on the moon

5. Toward

6. Overhang

7. Identifies something close at hand

8. Sign language

9. Unbroken views

10. Ancient Greek City

11. Stretch out to grasp

12. Alcohols that are unfit for drinking

14. Humorous stories


17. Long song for a solo

20. Barrels per day (abbr.)

Answers on page 24



Linda Coneybeare of Transat Travel, left, presents Heather Phillips with two tickets to Cayo Coco, Cuba that she won through the Buy In And Win local shopping contest. Renzo Rosati, right, co-ordinated the contest as a member of the Downtown Haliburton Business Association. /JENN WATT Staff

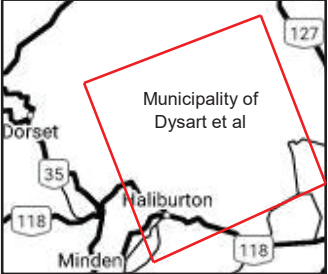


## NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER #3

### CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

#### Municipality of Dysart et al Septage Management Study

The Municipality of Dysart et al is undertaking a Schedule C Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study to establish the preferred approach for providing septage and holding tank waste disposal services to the residents of the Municipality.



A significant public, stakeholder and review agency consultation is a key element of the EA process. Public Information Centre (PIC) #3 will provide information on the final recommendation and selection of the preferred solution, and other updates based on feedback and questions received.

**Public Information Centre (#2)**

Date: Monday, January 27, 2020

Time: 12:30pm – 3:00pm

Location: Haliburton County Museum  
66 Museum Rd.  
Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0

**Comments Invited**

You are invited to attend the PIC to provide your comments so that they may be included in the final study report. Comments received throughout the course of the assessment were considered in selecting the preferred alternative. Following the PIC comments will be received until February 10, 2020.

Please contact either of the following if you wish to be added to the mailing list or if you have any questions or comments, or wish to obtain information about the project:

Mr. Rob Camelon  
Director of Public Works  
Municipality of Dysart et al  
P.O. Box 389  
Haliburton, ON  
K0M 1S0  
[rcamelon@dysartetal.ca](mailto:rcamelon@dysartetal.ca)

John Levie  
Vice President, Engineering  
Clearford-ASI  
566 Arvin Ave  
Stoney Creek, ON  
L8E 5P1  
[jlevie@clearford.com](mailto:jlevie@clearford.com)

Information will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. This Notice first issued on January 7, 2020.





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**JANUARY 14, 2020**

### Mental Health and the Workplace

ft. Jack Vietch  
Manager of Community  
Engagement & Education

Maple Ave. Tap & Grill  
7:30 AM to 9:00 AM

## CHAMBER CONNECTION W/ M.P. JAMIE SCHMALE

JOIN US FOR THIS  
MEMBERS-ONLY EVENT.



**FEBRUARY 11, 2020**

Camp Medeba  
7:30 AM to 9:00 AM

## LUNCH & LEARN

**JANUARY 23, 2020  
12:00 - 1:00 PM**

### WEBSITE 101 WORKSHOP

ft. Camille McInnis  
Digital Cottage Country Initiative

Chamber Office  
12:00 to 1:00 PM

## NEW MEMBER WELCOMES

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Angelwings Solutions 705-455-6616	Elegant Events 705-457-5725
Boatfix.ca 705-455-2121	Jeanette Salaris - Sales Representative, Re/Max Country Classics Ltd. 705-935-0885
Wildfire Wisdom 705-488-9917	Abbey North 705-754-4972

For more information on these new members and to register for our events,  
go to [www.haliburtonchamber.com](http://www.haliburtonchamber.com)



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Community Events

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**Taoist Tai Chi - Open Houses**  
Haliburton - Haliburton United Church  
Thursday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m. to noon  
Kinmount - Galway Community Hall  
Tuesday, Jan. 7 10 a.m. to noon  
Thursday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m. to noon  
Stanhope - Stanhope Community Center  
Friday, Jan. 10, 10 a.m. to noon  
For more information: contact Wilma at 705 457-5829

**No-Family Doctor Immunization Clinic**  
When: Wednesday, Jan. 8,  
Where: Health Unit office (191 Highland Street, Unit 301) in Haliburton.  
Free immunization clinics for families without a doctor. To book an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1507.

**Sexual Health Clinic**  
When: Wednesday, Jan. 8, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205.

**Mike Stevens: Harmonica Virtuoso**  
When: Thursday, Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m.  
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 New Castle Street, Minden  
What: Breathe in the world. Breathe out the music. In this energetic and interactive family performance with awe inspiring harmonica virtuoso Mike Stevens, discover that music is inside and around us all the time. Presented by Razzamataz Kids' Shows! For more info and tickets visit [www.razzamataz.ca/shows/](http://www.razzamataz.ca/shows/) or contact Dawn Mole-Hurd 705-854-0728

**Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Annual Exhibition**  
"Spaced Out"  
When: Friday January 10 4:30 to 6 p.m.  
Where: Rails End Gallery [www.railsendgallery.com](http://www.railsendgallery.com)

**Haliburton Ladies Auxiliary Sunday Breakfast**  
When: Sunday, January 12, 2020, 9:30 to 1:00 p.m.  
Where: Haliburton Legion, Main Hall  
Cost: \$6. Menu: Eggs or pancakes, bacon or sausage, hash browns, toast, orange juice, tea/coffee.

**Minden District Fur Harvesters Annual Winter Workshop**  
When: Sunday, Jan. 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Where: Minden Community Centre  
Fur handling demos, fur buyer on site, trapping supplies, baked goods, lots of door prizes and more.  
Admission \$2 for adults, under 12 are free. Non perishable food items also gratefully accepted for the local food bank.

**Enviro-Café – Wetlands and Climate Change**  
When: Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. Haliburton  
Presented by Environment Haliburton and the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust.  
Join Paul Heaven, wildlife biologist/consultant, for an interactive presentation about wetlands and their important role in mitigating climate change.  
For more information contact Susan Hay, [hayfield@tcc.on.ca](mailto:hayfield@tcc.on.ca) 705-457-9239. Funding support from Environment and Climate Change Canada.



**Skating into the new year**  
Above, friends nine-year-old Kalia Lang, Paxton Anderson, 9, and Mazey Robinson, 10, were all smiles at the New Year's Skating Party organized by Dysart et al on Dec. 31 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. Close to 100 people attended the first-time event, which included free skating, hotdogs and refreshments.  
  
Left, children have a snack break while skating at the New Year's Skating Party. / DARREN LUM

# Holidays offered food and festivities

community news  
**west guilford**  
Eleanor Cooper  
754-2278

How fortunate and thankful we are to live in a community with generous and happy people. People who celebrate Christmas this December were, on Dec. 7, the West Guilford Baptist Church, who hosted a dinner at the Community Centre followed by a video.

On Dec. 8, Becky and Andrew Wilbee of West G. Pizza hosted their free turkey dinner, complete with Santa and children. It is all the more pleasant since Becky enjoys putting it on, though it must be much extra effort. Thanks from the community to these hosts!

At Abbey Gardens, my bereavement support group achieved a delicious potluck lunch at our monthly gathering.

Cathy McMurray and I attended Canoe FM's turkey dinner and party at Bonnie View Inn on Dec. 1, the first real snowfall of the season.

Maple Lake United Church people enjoyed a Christmas dinner at the Minden Legion on Dec. 19.

Is there anything happening that doesn't involve food?! Yes, the Highlands Concert Band performed along with Melissa Stephens's Male Chorus at St. George's Church on the evening of Dec. 18.

Company with me occurred on Dec. 7 and 8 with Lois and Glen Babcock of Thornhill coming to visit, Lois being my daughter Beth's chum who years ago brought Beth information re: Massage School-Sutherland-Chan in Toronto. We have remained friends ever since.

Beth drove Kathleen Owens and me to Orillia on Christmas Day in the morning, having participated in Bill's choir at the Christmas Eve service at St. George's. We spend the blessed day with the Alan Coopers and return on Boxing Day with sisters June Campbell and Mavis Swiston. Lots of music both here and there!

At the Dec. 18 concert, \$1,015 was raised and nearly 300 pounds of food for the food bank.

Greetings of the season to all faithful readers of West Guilford notes!

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Please submit a resume and cover letter, preferably by email, no later than noon on **January 24th, 2020** to the attention of Cheryl Coulson, Clerk at [ccoulson@dysartet.al.ca](mailto:ccoulson@dysartet.al.ca)

We thank all those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

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## 520 THANK YOU


## 500 ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Julie Elizabeth Moore**

 Barbara Moore is proud to announce the graduation of her daughter Julie from the University of Toronto with a Master of Science in Nursing on November 5, 2019

Julie is continuing her education by pursuing a PhD in Nursing Science at University of Toronto, researching hematologic malignancies in critical care. She continues to work at Mount Sinai Hospital and St. Michaels Hospital in the intensive care units.

**Congratulations Julie!**  
Love Mom, Aunt Lorrie, Auntie Jane, Kate, Brent, Owen & Eli



## 520 THANK YOU

## 520 THANK YOU

*Thank you to all of the volunteers, supporters and donors that made this community event a success, and those that donated their time and finances in memory of Gary Pike who helped us to create this event in Haliburton through his philanthropy.*

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HALIBURTON COUNTY

**The Times**  
MINDEN ONTARIO

**CountyLife**

The Bagg family would like to extend their sincerest gratitude to the Bishop family for hosting Larry Bagg's visitation and celebration of life reception at Sir Sam's Ski Hill on December 19th and 20th. The entire family thanks everyone for their love and support during this difficult time. We are truly grateful to everyone who came to celebrate Larry and all the volunteers who made his tribute run perfectly. Larry was loved by many and he would have been happy to see all the love and support by family, friends and members of the community. Special thanks to:

- The Haliburton Community Funeral Home, Dwaine & Lori Lloyd for their comfort and support
- The first responders and hospital staff/Dr. Norm Bottom who worked tirelessly on Larry
- To the friends that stayed by Larry's side until family arrived
- To the friends who were there to assist with Larry's truck
- To the friends who continue to be there to help the family
- All the kind words, cards and tributes to Larry
- All the flowers and trees planted on behalf of Larry
- Donations to the Eagle Lake Community Church and Haliburton Legion
- The numerous food donations for the family and reception
- To Tran LaRue for being the Master of Ceremonies, Pastor Garry Swagerman for his prayers and Ryan VanLieshout for his musical performances
- To Ross, Shannon and Cody (Eagle Lake Country Market)
- To the Bishop Family; Angela, Chris, JD, Rob, Steve as well as Kim, Val, Safonda
- To the HUNDREDS of people who travelled to be there for Larry and the entire family during this difficult time. We appreciated everything!

Larry would have been so touched. We thank you!  
Sheila, Julie, Cathy, Glenn and family

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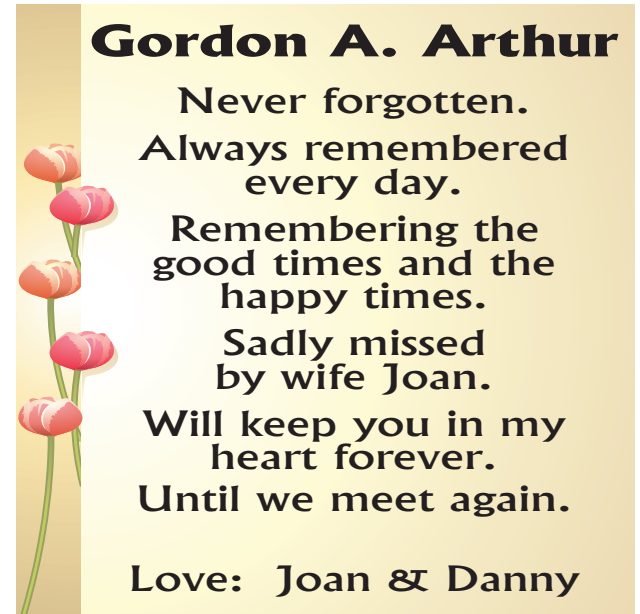
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640 IN MEMORIAM



**Gordon A. Arthur**

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every day.  
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good times and the  
happy times.  
Sadly missed  
by wife Joan.  
Will keep you in my  
heart forever.  
Until we meet again.


Love: Joan & Danny

650 OBITUARIES

650 OBITUARIES

650 OBITUARIES

650 OBITUARIES



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Vera Coles (nee Jones)**  
*Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home,  
Minden on December 27, 2019, at the age of 95.*


Loving wife of Alan Coles (deceased). Loving mother of Diane (Ivor) Thompson, Nan to Claire (Rhys) Jones and Erin (Kevin) Irving. Super Nanny to Olivia, Ava, Max and Myles. Best friend of Josie. Big sister to John (deceased) (Barbara) and Hilary (Graham). Auntie Vera to her nieces and nephews.

Vera was born in Hersham, Surrey, England and grew up in the towns of Weybridge and Thames Ditton. She served briefly in the WRNS during World War II. Vera married Alan in 1947 and moved to Bitteswell, Leicestershire to aid with the resettlement of refugees from the Baltic States. Vera had her daughter in 1952 and ran a shop from her home in the city of Leicester. The family came to Canada in 1957. Vera worked hard in new country, updated her skills and eventually became the office manager for the anaesthetists at Scarborough Centenary Hospital. She retired in 1998 and moved to Haliburton County. She loved her family, her house in the woods, her garden and many rescue pets. Many thanks to the kind people at Haliburton Hospital, Minden and Hyland Crest.


*"Life laughed and moved on un subdued,  
I saw that old succumbed to young  
T'was well. My too regretful mood  
Died on my tongue"*

*Thomas Hardy*

Vera's family will have a private celebration of her life. Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or to Hyland Crest Residents Council would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



[www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com](http://www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com)



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Velda Geneva "Neva" Hobden (nee Sisson)**  
*Passed away peacefully at Extendicare, Haliburton on Sunday,  
December 29, 2019, at the age of 85.*


Unfortunately, we have to say goodbye to our loving mother, grandmother, great and great-great grandmother, but we know that she is beside Dad (2004), brother Bern (2019), and grandson Greg (2001), along with Mom's brothers and sister who are waiting on the other side to help her through the next journey of her life.

She leaves behind her children Ina (Rick-2018), Velda, Bern (2019), Laverne (Pam), Terry (Carrie). Loving grandmother of 11 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, plus two in the near future and also two great-great grandchildren. As well as her sister Jane, five sister-in-laws, one brother-in-law and many nieces and nephews.



We would like to send a special thank you out to all of mom's friends that have been there for her through the good and the bad, as well as all the care givers at Extendicare and Dr. Stevenson that became her second family for all the love and care she received.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Neva's Life at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home. Spring Interment at Maple Lake United Church Cemetery.

Memorial Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.



[www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com](http://www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com)

**Ross Stamp**  
*(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)*

Peacefully on Thursday morning, January 2, 2020 in his 88th year surrounded by his family. Beloved husband and best friend of Joan Stamp (nee Morrison) for over 65 years. Loving father of Debra (Tom Inglis), Delane (Lyle Sawyer), Roger (Tracey) and Lisa (Mike Wheller). Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Carmen (Jan), Kris (Corrie), Angela (Gary), Curtis, Sarah, John and by his great grandchildren Ryot, Dakota, Isabella, Liam, Sophie, Shea, Josie and Carsyn. Dear brother of Beryl (Wayne Rutter) and Deniese (Roger Nesbitt). Also lovingly remembered by his nieces, nephews and many friends. Ross owned and operated Stamp's Haulage for many years. He enjoyed his business and the many relationships fostered through his working career. Ross and Joan travelled extensively and shared the gift of hospitality to the many that visited with them.

**Visitation, Funeral Service & Reception**

Friends are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Tuesday afternoon, January 7, 2020 from 2-4 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held in the Chapel on Wednesday morning, January 8, 2020 at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). Reception to follow in The Community Room. Interment later Maple Lake United Church Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary would be appreciated by the family.

[www.communityfuneralhomes.com](http://www.communityfuneralhomes.com)




**Bernice Schroter (nee Herron)**

Peacefully at Extendicare-Haliburton on Saturday morning, January 4, 2020 in her 92nd year. Beloved wife of the late Roy Schroter. Loving mother of Peter (Connie), Pamela Nesbitt both of Bracebridge and Martin (Lynn) of St. Catherines. Lovingly remembered by her grandchildren Amy, Jeffrey, Andrew (Jaclyn), Patrick, Courtney and by her great granddaughter Caelyn. Also lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Dear sister of Jack Herron and Eleanor Harrison. Predeceased by her sister Elaine Roberts. Bernice enjoyed entertaining people with her delicious baking, gardening and most of all socializing with others.

**Visitation, Funeral Service & Reception**

Friends are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Thursday morning, January 9, 2020 for Funeral Service in the Chapel at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). Reception to follow in The Community Room. Interment later Evergreen Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or Extendicare - Proud Pioneers would be appreciated by the family.

[www.communityfuneralhomes.com](http://www.communityfuneralhomes.com)





## LOCKSLEY, Glenda (nee Tripp)

*Passed away peacefully with her family by her side on December 19, 2019 in her 78th year.*

Beloved wife to Bob for 56 years. Loving mother to David, Beth and Wanda. Proud grandma to Elyssa and Adam and great-grandma to Lylah. Survived by her sister Eleanor. Predeceased by her brothers Harvey, Douglas, Murray and Reginald. Glenda will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by many people. She was a giving, caring volunteer that touched so many lives along the way. The family will receive friends at Westminster United Church (1850 Rossland Road East, Whitby, 905-723-6442), on Saturday January 4, 2020 from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. A memorial service will be held in the sanctuary at 11 a.m. Reception to follow in the church hall. Cremation has taken place. Arrangements entrusted to MOUNT LAWN FUNERAL HOME 905-443-3376. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to either St. Vincent's Kitchen or to The Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family. Online



## Agnes Reiss

*(Resident of Haliburton)*

At the residence on Saturday morning, December 28, 2019 in her 80th year. Beloved wife of the late Ludwig Reiss. Loving mother of Margaret of Haliburton. Dear sister of Martina and Christine (Paul), Hans (Walburga), Konrad (Clara) and Josef (Annemarie). Predeceased by her brother Albert. Agnes owned and operated Hilltop Market in Haliburton for many years. She loved to garden, read and make special oils and remedies for anything that ailed you. Most of all, she loved people and had chocolate for those that visited.

### Visitation, Funeral Service & Reception

Friends were invited to visit with the family at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Sunday afternoon, January 5, 2020 from 12 (Noon) p.m. until time of Funeral Service in the Chapel at 2 p.m. A reception followed in The Community Room. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services or the Arthritis Society would be appreciated by the family.

[www.communityfuneralhomes.com](http://www.communityfuneralhomes.com)



*In Loving Memory of*

## Fay McKay (nee Howe)

*Passed away peacefully at Highland Wood Long Term Care, Haliburton on Tuesday, December 24, 2019. In her 89th year.*

Beloved wife of the late Bruce. Dear mother of Mike (deceased), Sherrie, Glenda, Jamie and Jack. Loving grandmother of Darcy, Lana, Jamie, Jocelyn, Colin, Keegan, Maddie, Stephanie and 14 great grandchildren. Predeceased by her sister Geraldine. Fondly remembered by Dave and Pat.

Friends are invited to a Service to Celebrate Fay's Life at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Monday, December 30, 2019 at 2:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home. Spring Interment at Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.



[www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com](http://www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com)

## Hearn, James

It is with great sadness the family announces the passing of James Hearn in his 64th year. Loving husband of Kelly. Proud father of Jennifer and Samantha. Cherished Papa of Alexis, Jake and Dominic. Survived by his mother Barbara of England.

James will be sadly missed by his siblings, nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. As per James' wishes, cremation has taken place and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to The McEachnie Funeral Home in Ajax ON, 905-428-8488.



## Edward Lehman

*April 28, 1939 - Dec. 23, 2019*

After a long battle with COPD and re-occurring Pneumonia, Ed in his 81 year passed away peacefully on Dec. 23rd 2019 at the Lindsay Ross Memorial Hospital, with family by his side.

Ed was a long time employee of Ontario Hydro stationed in Timmins Ontario. After retiring he moved to Haliburton in the year 2000 where he lived on the North Shore Rd. (Maple Lake). For the past three years he lived at Kawartha Lakes Retirement Residence, Bobcaygeon.

Ed loved the north and in particular living in the Haliburton area. He had a great interest on what was going on in the Haliburton area and how things were or were not changing. He was also a great supporter of local charities that helped those who he considered less fortunate.

In passing Ed leaves behind his brother Robert (Donna), Nephew Darren (Emily), Niece Susan and great nephews Callum, Graham, and great nieces, Mia and Audrey.

We would like to thank the staff of the Haliburton Hospital, Kawartha Lakes Retirement Residence and the Lindsay Ross Memorial hospital for their support over the years.

He will be missed.



## Barbara Jane Neilson

*June 18, 1952 – January 2, 2020*

Following a courageous battle with cancer. Survived by her best friend and husband of 33 years, Lionel Belman, son Aaron, mother Phyllis, brother Peter, honorary son Carlos Mauneles, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Born in Leamington, Ontario to Jack and Phyllis Neilson. In 1986 began a 31-year career as a social worker at Toronto Sick Kids Hospital helping patients in the Department of Urology. She was a pioneer in her field, raising international awareness to the importance of mental health support for children and adults with complex urological conditions. She was a teacher and mentor to many throughout her career.

She volunteered her expertise and services with various associations and support groups within her field, and spoke at numerous international conferences. She touched thousands of lives, both patients and families as well as students and colleagues, with her advocacy, education, mentorship, compassion and humor.

She loved dogs and spending summers with family on Drag Lake. She was a Couch Surfing pioneer, opening her home to visitors from around the globe. Her adventurous and youthful spirit never wavered, leading her to the deserts of Nevada for Burning Man and to the snowy terrain of the Yukon as a supporting member of team Hank DeBruin in the Yukon Quest dogsled race. Her vibrancy and contagious enthusiasm for life impacted all of those who were fortunate enough to meet her.

She leaves a lifetime of wonderful memories and smiles to all who knew her. She will be missed. Thanks to the staff at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. A celebration of her life will occur at a future date. She often volunteered at Ostomy Canada's Youth Camp during summer vacations. Donations may be made in her name at: [www.ostomycanada.ca](http://www.ostomycanada.ca)



INSIDE  
THIS WEEK:

GIVE 'EM A BONE

Big Fish Boys hit the trails with Winterdance sled dog tours to get a whiff of winter

GET OUT THE SHOVELS

Three eco-tourism students are building an outdoor rink for everyone to enjoy

CAREFUL WHERE YOU PARK

Dysart gets tough on cars that impede the work of snowplows

# THE ECHO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2006

VOL. 123 No. 3 \$1 INCL. GST

## More laughter than sparks at debate

BRYN WEESE

Staff Reporter

The eager, albeit smallish crowd that attended the all-candidates meeting this past Wednesday night in Haliburton received an earful of refreshingly respectful politics, even if at times the meeting seemed a bit dull.

Taking place at the Northern Arts Pavilion, the meeting followed a popular format of questions from the floor, answered in turn by each candidate. Unlike the four national debates that took place among the party leaders throughout this election campaign, the Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock candidates were respectful of one another, with Conservative Barry Devolin and Liberal Greg Walling even sharing a laugh or two.

From the candidates' perspective, the purpose of the meeting, introducing themselves to the voters in Haliburton County as well as highlighting their ties to the area, was made clear at the outset.

In her opening remarks, NDP candidate Anne MacDermid reminded voters that, since the age of six, she has spent her summers in the county at a nearby cottage. Walling, too, told the attendees that his great aunt was from Wilberforce and that the Wallings who gave their name to a road and field were also related. Devolin, who lives literally just up the street, also mentioned early on in his opening remarks that his roots are deep in Haliburton. Green Party candidate Andy Harjula, Finnish by birth, eagerly informed those in attendance that, while working for the Ministry of Natural Resources as a forester, he applied to work here. He has also spent much time visiting a family cottage in the county.

As was to be expected, Wednesday's meeting was not full of facts and figures or dollars and cents. In fact, it was a full

See **Candidates** page 10



As two of the three men hoping to become the riding's next member of parliament, Conservative incumbent Barry Devolin and Liberal candidate Greg Walling share a laugh over NDP candidate Anne MacDermid's comment that there would be more women in the House of Commons if more women had wives.

## Friends of Frost Centre looking for commitment

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

It's a classic Catch-22.

Groups and governments don't want to commit to the Friends of the Frost Centre's bid to take over management of the Frost Centre until they find out whether the Friends are successful in proving to the province that they have a feasible proposal.

The Friends worry that without commitments from groups and governments they will be hindered in their ability to show that they can put forth a financially viable option.

"We're playing the chicken and egg game," says Napier Simpson, one of the Friends volunteers who is pulling together a proposal before the January 24 deadline. "Everyone is sitting on the fence."

Fellow committee member Max Radiff says "Everyone is saying 'Yea, we want it so you guys go for it' and that poses some real problems for us. We need cash."

Not only do the Friends need commitments from groups willing to use the centre's facility but, to be successful in their bid, they need to find the money to replace all the equipment and furnishings that were removed when the province shut down the former Ministry of Natural Resources outdoor education centre in July of 2004. They also need some up-front operating funds to tide them through until the centre breaks even.

One million dollars is only a very rough estimate of how much it would take to launch their plan.

"We don't have the resources to carry this all by ourselves at this point," says Simpson. "But the bottom line is I remain optimistic we have a proposal that meets the Ontario Realty Corporation's requirements and that with a lot of help from other people we can pull this off."

"Somewhere out there there's a sponsor or a white knight."

Originally, the Friends had hoped to

See **Friends** page 9

## Quick response prevents drowning

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

The quick response of guests and staff at the Wigamog Inn helped to prevent a man from drowning in the resort's pool on Monday morning.

A 69-year-old man was in the pool with friends when he became submerged and couldn't make it to the surface of the water. He didn't know how to swim.

One of his friends saw him on the bottom of the pool and called out. A couple who was swimming in the pool dove under and pulled him up. Wigamog staff members pulled him onto the deck.

The staff, who are trained in emergency first aid, were able to ascertain he was breathing and did not have to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

"He came to quickly on his own," says the Lake Kashagawigamog resort's general manager, Dale Bull.

The couple who pulled the man to safety told Bull that they were amazed

See **Snowmobiler** page 3

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